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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

In a CNMI election, no one knows how you voted. Do you believe that to be true or false?

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INSIDE

LOCAL

Saipan's reef fisheries have a high financial value for tourism.

➤ PAGE 6

NATION

The United States condemns the Iranian death sentence for an American.

➤ PAGE 14

LIFE & STYLE

Jay-Z and Beyonce confirm the birth of their newborn daughter.

➤ PAGE 19

MPLT, DPL warn vs depleting public lands money to help Fund, CHC

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Public Land Trust and the Department of Public Lands cautioned lawmakers yesterday against depleting DPL and MPLT resources that are currently being tapped—almost at the same time—to help prolong the Retirement Fund's lifespan and run the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

Two Senate initiatives, for example, tap DPL and MPLT resources for the Fund about the same time that a House bill seeks up to $10 million from MPLT to help CHC. These are just among other measures seeking to tap MPLT and DPL money that a House Special Committee on Retirement Fund is reviewing.

MPLT board chair Alvaro Santos said that tapping MPLT resources for a host of issues is "disturbing" and would "very much hurt" MPLT, the agency that manages the money generated from leases of public lands.

"This is something that is disturbing to us because

See MPLT on Page 4

CUC: Another LEAC cut in the offing

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Customers of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. may see a slight reduction in their monthly power bill after the utilities firm disclosed yesterday that it will file a petition for a new LEAC rate this month.

LEAC, or levelized energy adjustment clause, is a component of the power bill that reflects the cost of fuel. It is supposed to go up or down to reflect the cost of buying fuel to run the power plants.

CUC chief finance officer Charles Warren and deputy executive director Alan Fletcher confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that they have already notified the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission of their plan to set a new LEAC rate effective Jan. 27.

CUC proposes to reduce the LEAC rate from $0.30791 per kilowatt-hour to $0.29579 per

See CUC on Page 4

A dog tag's amazing journey

»Marine's dog tag found on Saipan, returned to its owner in Massachusetts after over 60 years

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A U.S. Marine Corps identification tag, which was lost during Word War II and found in a yam field on Saipan in 1981, was flown from the island to Massachusetts where it was finally returned to its owner, veteran Richard Caldwell Urie, now 86, over the weekend.

"The dog tag made the last leg of its journey and is back where it belongs!" assistant U.S. attorney Timothy E. Moran told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday via email.

Moran and his family handed the dog tag to Urie during lunch on Sunday (Monday on Saipan) at Urie's retirement compound, Brooksby Village, in Peabody, Massachusetts.

Urie, who now uses a power chair to get around, was with his four daughters, two sons-in-law, and a friend when he received his dog tag.

"This is the most amazing thing to happen to me. When

See DOG TAG on Page 4

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Assistant U.S. attorney Timothy Moran returns the dog tag of World War II veteran Richard Caldwell Urie at Brooksby Village in Peabody, Massachusetts on Monday (Saipan time). The dog tag was lost on Saipan during the war and was found at a yam farm on Capital Hill in 1981. Inset, Mike Villagomez and Moran pose for a photo last Dec. 29 behind a yam farm in I-Denni, Capital Hill, Saipan, where Villagomez found the dog tag.

Award-winning filmmaker writes book about Hillblom. PAGE 3

Crisostimo, Maratita had most absences in Q4 of 2011. PAGE 5

Local

TSL Foundation, Tan Holdings employees donate $7.2K for typhoon victims

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Tan Siu Lin Foundation and Tan Holdings employees donated over $7,200 in support of relief and rehabilitation efforts for the victims of Typhoon Sendong, which washed out communities in two major cities in the Philippines.

Foundation president Jerry Tan and several Tan Holdings employees presented the check to Philippine Consul General Medardo Macaraig and United Filipino Organization officers led by president Bong Malasarte in a ceremony at the TSL Plaza in Garapan yesterday morning.

Tan, who launched the Typhoon Sendong drive among his employees, pledged a dollar-to-dollar match for the amount that his employees would raise. After several days, Tan Holdings employees raised a total of $3,639.44.

"We hope that we will be able to help the victims of Typhoon Sendong even in our own small way and we're thankful that Tan Holdings supported us in this effort," said Teddy Orbeta, accountant at Century Insurance Co. "We will be praying for all those who were affected by this tragedy, especially those who lost their loved ones."

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Tan Siu Lin Foundation president Jerry Tan, third left, present a giant check worth $3,639.44 to United Filipino Organization president Bong Malasarte, fourth right, as Philippine Consul General Medardo Macaraig, sixth left, receives another check of the same amount from Tan Holdings employees Teddy Orbeta and Miko Moran during a presentation at the TSL Plaza yesterday morning.

Tan said they always promote volunteerism and giving back to the community among their affiliate companies and their employees' efforts in this fund drive "speaks volumes" about sharing what they have despite the economic challenges they are facing on island.

"I'm sure the money can be used for many other purposes like their family's needs yet they chose to share and help the victims of this tragedy. We're very, very proud of our employees for their willingness to share, especially knowing that this tragedy happened around Christmas time," Tan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Macaraig expressed appreciation to the Tan Siu Lin Foundation and Tan Holdings employees for the donation which he said would help the rehabilitation efforts in Cagayan de Oro and Iligan Cities.

"This is a big tragedy, a tragedy that would take awhile to recover from and we're deeply thankful to everyone for sharing their resources with us. I'm sure it will help the victims and it will help the area recover from this devastating tragedy," he said.

Macaraig noted that the donation will be turned over to the Philippine National Red Cross, just like the money raised by UFO during its own fundraising drive last December.

"We're very pleased that the Tan Siu Lin Foundation and Tan Holdings employees were concerned for our countrymen who were affected by this unfortunate disaster. The donation will help them in their road to recovery," said UFO president Malasarte.

Maratita replaces Palacios as House Education chair

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Maratita

Rep. Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan) now chairs the House Committee on Education, replacing Rep. Ray Palacios (Cov-Saipan) who stepped down as committee chair in November after he was accused of "ice" trafficking.

Maratita said yesterday she accepted the post and hopes to make a difference.

"It would be a blatant disregard of public trust if I don't accept the important position of heading the Education Committee. We all want to make a difference in the lives of children," said Maratita after a visit to Hopwood Junior High School.

Maratita said that everyone should put the welfare of people ahead of political parties, acknowledging that her acceptance of the post might be construed as a politically motivated.

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) appointed Maratita as committee chair in December, and Maratita has now been attending leadership meetings.

Maratita, who is completing the term left by former representative Diego Benavante who resigned in July, said she has yet to decide whether to run for office again in November and whether to remain independent or run under Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's Republican Party.

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Award-winning filmmaker writes book about Hillblom

»Nationwide launching of *King Larry* today

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

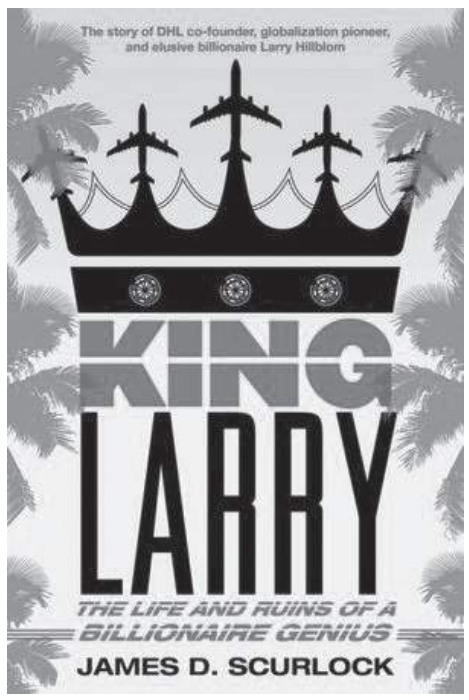
Award-winning filmmaker James D. Scurlock has written a book about the life of the late billionaire, Larry Lee Hillblom.

Scurlock told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that his book, *King Larry: The Life and Ruins of a Billionaire Genius*, will be launched nationwide today, Wednesday.

"It will be available on Amazon.com and all other online retailers," Scurlock said in an email.

Marlon Regaton, sales manager of Bestseller Bookstore in Susupe, said that they are not included in the nationwide launch but that they can order the books in two weeks' time for interested buyers.

Hillblom, the "H" in DHL, was one of the most influential businessmen of the 20th century. He died in a plane crash off Anatahan on May 21, 1995. His body was never recovered, but the court declared him dead. He left an estimated $550 million to $700 million in assets, according to court records.


The story of DHL co-founder, globalization pioneer, and elusive billionaire Larry Hillblom
KING
LARRY
THE LIFE AND RUINS OF A BILLIONAIRE GENIUS
JAMES D. SCURLOCK

King Larry is expected to be a big hit in the CNMI, particularly in the legal and business community. Hillblom was a very influential lawyer who also owned several businesses in the CNMI.

Publishers Weekly has already praised the book: "Hillblom does not have the immediate name recognition of Steve Jobs, Bill Gates, or Howard Hughes, but the enigmatic founder of DHL has a story that is just as fascinating—and more mysterious—than any of these genius entrepreneurs—a gripping account of the mercurial, visionary, complicated billionaire's life."

According to Scribner Publicity's Lauren Lavelle, the book begins with the story of an asocial young man who grew up on a peach farm outside of Fresno, California. Hillblom went on to co-found DHL in 1969 (three years before FedEx), and it became the fastest-growing corporation in history.

Hillblom's vision and effort turned international shipping into big business. DHL toppled centuries-old postal monopolies,

Scurlock

Hillblom

encouraged airline deregulation, and helped banks go global.

Instead of reveling in his accomplishments and wealth, however, Hillblom defied the world and became an international pariah. In 1981, he retreated to a small tax haven in the Western Pacific. There he led the resistance to American meddling in the Marianas Islands, earned the title of Supreme Court justice, and indulged in countless sexual trysts with underage prostitutes, according to Lavelle in a statement.

In 1995, Lavelle said, Hillblom's amoral, thrill-seeking nature caught up to him when his seaplane disappeared off the coast of Anatahan, leaving behind an estate worth billions.

"Attorneys, IRS agents, business partners, destitute women claiming to be mothers of Hillblom's children came forward for their piece of his fortune," Lavelle said in the press release.

In May 2009, *New York Times* columnist Roger Cohen noted that Hillblom "merited a brief obituary in *The New York Times* when his World War II era seaplane disappeared in the Pacific Ocean off Saipan in 1995, but scarcely a line for or since. That's a pity; he merits a book."

Lavelle said that *King Larry* is that book.

Scurlock's first film, *Parents of the Year*, won numerous awards and was an official selection of more than 25 film festivals. His first feature length film, *Maxed Out*, won the special jury prize at the South by Southwest film festival and was named one of the top 10 films of the year by *The Washington Post*.

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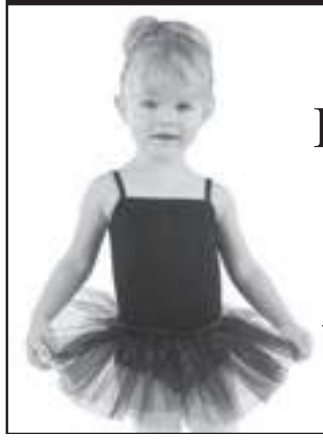

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Yumul asks DPL to hold off notices to boat operators

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan) asked the Department of Public Lands yesterday to "stay" or hold off a notice telling boat operators to stop picking up tourists on Mañagaha for water sports unless they are Tasi Tours or have an agreement with Tasi Tours, until clarifications on DPL's authority and its agreement with the Managaha concessionaire are made.

Yumul, at the same time, warned that DPL's memo or notice "may spark lawsuits against DPL."

He said DPL's notice can also have a "negative repercussion" to tourism "by confusing visiting tourists whom we desperately need."

Yumul cited as an example DPL's double collection of $5 landing fee from a water sports operator for a short period last year. That water sports operator had to collect the amount from the same tourists.

DPL Secretary Oscar M. Babauta said yesterday that the double collection was stopped shortly.

Babauta said he has not received Yumul's letter yet, so he could not comment on its content.

He added, though, that even his predecessors were issuing notices to concessionaires and DPL permit holders as reminders for them to comply with laws, regulations, and policies.

Some of the 20 affected boat operators also hope that DPL would reconsider its notice for them to stop picking up tourists on Mañagaha.

Mañagaha, a world renowned snorkeling site, is visited by over 60 percent of all tourists who come to the CNMI annually.

Yumul told Babauta that his office and that of the Legislative Bureau counsels are "actively reviewing" the constitutionality and legality of the DPL memo, as well as the concessionaire agreement between the former Marianas Public Lands Authority, now DPL, and the concessionaire and the amendments to such agreement.

Yumul said this review is "an attempt to understand your legal position in this matter."

Based on preliminary review, Yumul said it would seem DPL has no authority to regulate and control activities on the ocean surface as the CNMI does not control submerged lands.

The lawmaker also said a plain reading of the administrative code 145-30-101, published on May 15, 2003, states that "the exclusive right to operate all commercial concessions does not include the exclusive right to provide transportation to and from the island."

"I take this to mean that water sports operators may freely transport tourist to and from the island without limitation on each business day," Yumul said.

He also cited Public Law 15-2, which states that DPL's authority does not extend to the issuance of land use permits and licenses. He said the regulation and control of water sport business activities should be left to other appropriate CNMI agencies such as Department of Commerce, Coastal Resources Management, and Division of Fish and Wildlife.

The DPL secretary said only the concessionaire—currently Tasi Tours—"can conduct tours on Mañagaha Island or from Mañagaha Island."

"When tourists are picked up on Mañagaha Island to go on a marine sport tour, whether it's parasailing, banana boating or the like, they are taking a tour 'from the island.' If the tour is sold by a company other than the concessionaire, the concessionaire's exclusive right to operate all commercial concessions on Mañagaha Island has been violated. It should be noted that this is regardless of whether the tourist is returned to Mañagaha or taken back to Saipan after the water sports tour," Babauta said in his notice to beach concessionaries and marine sports operators.

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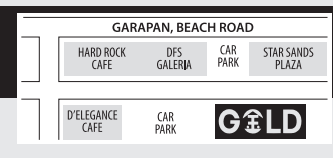

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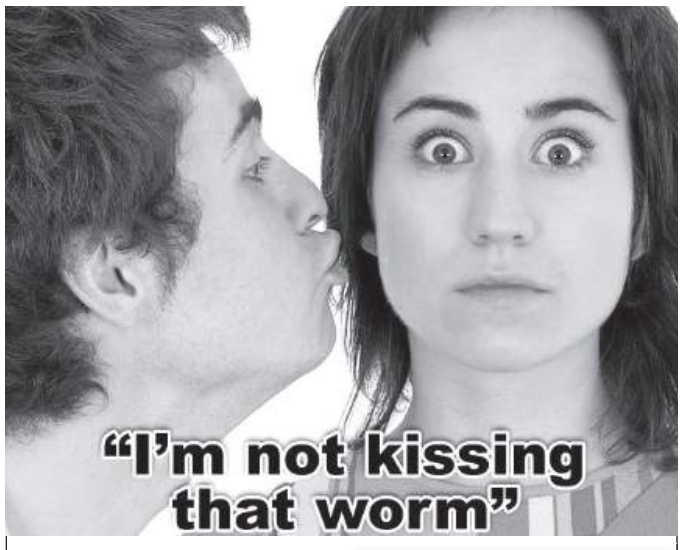

Sure enough, there it was. A microscopic worm living just beneath the surface of Jesse's eye. His only symptom – redness. The thought of that worm undulating like a tiny maggot hula dancer was enough for Carmen to stop kissing Jesse. Marianas Eye Institute's Dr. David Khorram put together the team that extracted the worm using lasers and advanced microsurgical techniques. When the bandage came off, the first thing Jesse got was a juicy kiss from Carmen.

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NMC imposes new $200 fee on international students

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Foreign students at Northern Marianas College will be charged a new fee starting this spring 2012, according to acting NMC president Leo Pangelinan.

Pangelinan, who is also the dean of Student Services, said the fees will be used for specific purposes such as for facilitating and processing foreign students' documents like F-1 visas, hiring of more English tutors, and expansion and upgrade of the English laboratory.

International students currently pay a tuition of $190 per credit, not including flat fees imposed by the college on all enrollees. Resident students pay $95 per credit plus the mandated flat fee.

With the new fee, foreign students will be charged an additional $200 per semester.

Pangelinan said that NMC, in partnership with the U.S. Homeland Security through the student exchange visitor program, is now required to monitor, track, and report students who obtain F-1 visas.

CUC

From Page 1

kilowatt-hour.

Warren said that CUC had notified the commission about this possible rate reduction in the LEAC charge due to the lower price of oil in the world market. He warned, though, that this proposed reduced number could still change, depending on the oil price trend in coming days.

The last time the LEAC rate changed was on Nov. 11, when the commission lowered the LEAC from $0.34426 per kilowatt-hour to $0.30791 per kilowatt-hour, effective Nov. 20 to January 2011.

"This proposed rate is lower than the rate approved last November by about $0.012. The proposed rate is subject to change, depending on fuel price movements between now and the hearing date," Warren said, adding that the "formal LEAC petition is not yet complete and the rate provided to the CPUC was for notice purposes."

Warren said the proposed reduction is based on CUC's calculation of fuel price as of last week. "[If] the oil price goes down again…we will do our analysis again and if it continues [until the hearing date], it could be the same [figure]," he added.

Warren could not immediately quantify yesterday the impact the adjustment will have on average residential customers.

According to Fletcher, both CUC and Georgetown are working hard to come up with a LEAC rate that both could agree on. A final petition for the new LEAC charge is expected to be filed prior to the commission's Jan. 21 public hearing.

MPLT

From Page 1

both of them are asking from the same 'pot' and for the payment of the loans to both of them is also coming again from the pot…They will involve the same MPLT money to finance and the same MPLT money also to pay for them. We cannot do both," Santos told *Saipan Tribune*.

Santos pointed out that the intention of helping the Fund and CHC may be noble but this could be at the expense of land trust money that should also be protected.

As of yesterday, DPL and MPLT officials were hesitant to support Senate Legislative Initiatives 17-13 and 17-14 and House Bill 17-258 as currently drafted.

Senate President Paul Manglona's (Ind-Rota) SLI 17-13, SS1, SD1 seeks to amend Article 11 of the NMI Constitution to transfer the disposition and management decision of public land golf course leases to the Fund.

It allows the Fund to lease public land golf courses for up to 99 years—instead of only up to 55 years—for $50 million or for an amount determined by two certified independent appraisals, whichever is greater.

While the department would like to help the Fund, DPL Secretary Oscar M. Babauta said that SLI 17-13 would "limit, impair, and impede" DPL's programs and activities such as homestead developments on Rota and Tinian.

He said for homestead power system on Rota and Tinian alone, DPL would need some $2.6 million.

"It's a choice that has to be made by policy makers on Capital Hill," Babauta said.

If SLI 17-13 passes and is approved by voters, DPL will hold fee simple title to all existing public land golf course leases. These are the Coral Ocean Point Golf Course, Laolao Bay Golf Resort, Rota Resort Golf Course, Marianas Country Club Golf Course, and all other golf courses to which a current land lease is in effect with the CNMI government.

Babauta, a former House speaker, said DPL collects hundreds of thousands of dollars from these golf courses—money that they use for homesteads, among other things.

Also discussed during yesterday's meeting was SLI 17-14, SD1, which seeks to amend Article 11 of the NMI Constitution to provide for the transfer of funds from MPLT to the Fund.

This involves the use of the interest on the amount received for the lease of property at Tanapag Harbor for the development and maintenance of a memorial park. This proposed constitutional amendment shall apply beginning on the fiscal year after the loan to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is paid in full.

Rep. Ray Basa's (Cov-Saipan) HB 17-258 authorizes MPLT to retain net annual distributable interest income for fiscal years 2014 to 2020 to offset a $10 million advance to the general fund, and that amount will be made available to CHC.

MPLT's Santos said the agency is just waiting which of these initiatives or bills would be acted on first by the Senate and House.

"We will, of course, recognize the importance of it. We do our due diligence, make sure the terms and conditions are met. But both [initiatives], we see merits, very worthwhile cases for the Retirement Fund and healthcare," he said, adding that MPLT's portfolio is now at $71 million.

Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota), chairperson of the House Special Committee on the Retirement Fund, has asked DPL and MPLT to submit written testimonies on the three pieces of legislation, as well as recommendations on how these measures could be improved without hurting DPL and MPLT while achieving their goals of helping the Fund and CHC.

Santos' committee met yesterday morning with DPL and MPLT officials on the two Senate initiatives but during the course of the meeting, agency officials also brought up their concern with other bills that also tap into public lands money.

The committee will meet again this morning with other agencies to discuss HLI 17-15, SD1 as well as HB 17-226.

This initiative seeks to amend Section 9(a) of Article 3 of the NMI Constitution to set aside 25 percent of revenue to pay the government's employer contribution to the Fund.

The Senate-amended HB 17-226, meanwhile, allows active members to "roll over" their contributions to the defined contribution plan without the need to resign from government and not "withdraw" their contribution from the Fund as the original House bill had intended.

DOG TAG

From Page 1

you reach an age of 86, you don't expect any surprises. This is a very significant event in my life. It brings back many memories," Urie told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, also via email.

Urie doesn't remember ever losing his dog tag but said that that is not so unusual, considering his age.

U.S. military soldiers while in the field are required to wear at all times identification tags or dog tags as they are informally called. Two identical tags are issued. In the event the soldier is killed, the second tag is collected, and the first remains with the body.

Urie said the return of his dog tag is a big event for his daughters and grandchildren, and a chance for them to learn about a time in his life that he has never really talked about.

"It was wonderful having Tim Moran return the dog tag, a chance to learn about the development of Saipan since the war," he said.

He could hardly believe it that so many people took the time to make this happen. "I shall be eternally grateful to Mike Villagomez and Randy Kruid for their persistence," Urie said.

Villagomez, a PE teacher at Cha-Cha Junior High, found the dog tag in 1981. Kruid, a U.S. special investigator deputy marshal assigned at the Saipan office, was the one who traced Urui through the Internet in November.

Villagomez and his wife, Erlinda, handed the dog tag in December to Moran, who was going back to Boston after a vacation on Saipan. Moran had agreed to take the dog tag on the final leg of its journey to Urie.

Moran said he and his family had a really wonderful time meeting Urie and his family.

"We did our best to answer their many questions about Saipan, which we obviously enjoyed much more than he did," said Moran, who used to work as a federal prosecutor in the CNMI.

Moran said they also asked many questions about Urie's experiences on Saipan and then in Japan during the war.

Moran said he is very grateful that Villagomez, who found the dog tag, included him "in this long, interesting story."

"I think my daughters were also very fortunate to have the chance to participate in a very small way, in history happening," he said.

Discovery, return

The story of this dog tag's long journey and how it finally traced its way to Urie is just amazing.

Villagomez was then 13 or 14 years old when he found the dog tag while clearing rocks in their *dagu,* or white yam farm, on Capital Hill in 1981.

Growing up on the island, Villagomez loved to explore the jungles where he would find war artifacts such as canteens, grenades, knives, and bombs.

"I would imagine what had happened in that particular place I was exploring," the now 43-year-old teacher said.

One time, Villagomez found a Japanese dog tag together with some skeletal remains. He called the Japanese Consulate and had the remains brought back to Japan.

He found it strange that he was able to contact someone for the Japanese remains but has been unable to contact someone from the United States, considering that Saipan is a U.S. territory.

Years passed and Villagomez all but forgot about the dog tag he dug up at their farm. After he got married in 1994, his wife Erlinda came across an old pencil case container that he had kept while growing up. Inside it was the dog tag, which had the information: Richard Caldwell Urie. Ser#538322. T-8/43. By then, the dog tag had been in the pencil box for more than 10 years.

Last November, Erlinda saw a dog tag at Kruid's office and told him that she has a dog tag that her husband had found years ago. Erlinda had held on to the dog tag, hoping that somebody could help her return it to the owner or his family. Kruid expressed interest in locating its owner or at the very least, family members.

On Nov. 21, 2011, a week after that encounter, Kruid Googled the name Urie and found about four to five persons named Richard Urie. When he narrowed down the search using the middle name Caldwell, he got one name and sent him an email, explaining that he had found a U.S. Marine dog tag on Saipan and that he was trying to find its owner or his family.

Kruid was surprised when Urie himself replied.

"I thought I was talking to a family member," Kruid told *Saipan Tribune*. "It was an amazing experience."

Kruid immediately informed Erlinda that the tag's owner is alive and that he was able to communicate with him. Erlinda broke down in tears.

On Nov. 25, 2011, Villagomez sent his first email to Urie: "Mr. Urie, I am so happy to have finally found you. God bless you! All these years, I've wondered about the person who owned the tag."

On Dec. 26, 2011, Urie wrote back to Villagomez and Kruid. "This story has taken on an exciting life of its own here at Brooksby Village, where I live," Urie said. They then discussed arrangements for the return of the dog tag.

At that point, Erlinda, who used to work with Moran at the U.S. Attorney's Office on Saipan, learned that Moran and his wife were on Saipan for the holidays. Knowing that the Moran family is from Boston, Villagomez and Erlinda asked him if he could help out. He said yes and they gave him the dog tag on Dec. 29, 2011.

Urie learned that Moran would be bringing the dog tag to the United States. He was so happy that on Jan. 1, 2012, he emailed the Villagomez couple, asking for more information about them and how the dog tag was found.

Urie said an in-house TV show at Brooksby has been organizing a publicity project for the dog tag. People, he said, have also been contacting local newspapers and TV stations in Boston for coverage. Getting back his dog tag after over 60 years "is truly an amazing story."

Memories of war

Urie was born in the United States, but traces his family's roots to Scotland. He joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 1943 when he was 19. He was discharged in 1946.

Urie was married in 1947 and they had four daughters. His wife died 12 years ago. He has seven grandchildren. Besides raising a family, he also finished college and law school. After the war, he eventually wound up in the business world.

Urie described his career in the Marine Corps as "mostly uneventful."

He was a PFC radio operator attached to the Headquarters Company of the 2nd Marine Division stationed on Saipan.

"I joined the division after the Battle of Saipan. I participated in a number of operations in small islands north of Saipan to eliminate pockets of Japanese that had been left after the main operation," he said in an email to Kruid.

Urie said the 2nd Marines participated in a diversionary part of the Battle of Okinawa off the southern coast and never did land.

"We returned to Saipan. One interesting fact is our camp area overlooked the waters between Saipan and Tinian. We watched the B29 bombers take off from Tinian over the bay," he said.

As the runway on Tinian was not long enough, Urie said the bombers would take off over the cliff and start to sink toward the water.

"Most of them had enough power to rise up, but a few didn't make it and crash boats were stationed there to rescue the crew," he said.

They never did know whether these crews were all rescued or not.

After the Okinawa operation, Urie said they proceeded to train for the invasion of Japan, which really intensified after the Iwo Jima operation.

"We were loading ships in August of 1945 for the Invasion of Japan. When the atom bombs were dropped and the war ended, this continued because we were scheduled to be one of the Japan occupation divisions," he said.

In early September of 1945 the 2nd Marine Division landed in Nagasaki for occupation duty.

"To be stationed in a city that had been part of the atom bombing was an awesome experience. Half of the city had been completely destroyed by the bomb. It really defies the written word," said Urie.

Urie was part of the occupation forces until April 1946 and was discharged in May 1946.

Crisostimo, Maratita had most absences in last quarter of 2011

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sen. Luis Crisostimo (Ind-Saipan) and Rep. Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan) have the worst attendance among 29 members of the Senate and House, respectively, in October to December 2011 based on a review of the Legislature's attendance records.

Crisostimo's absence from all seven Senate sessions during the last quarter was a result of his ongoing chemotherapy in California. The senator has throat cancer, and his colleagues ask the public to include Crisostimo's speedy recovery in their prayers.

Maratita, who missed three of six House sessions, said yesterday she had to go off island to attend to her son who was injured during military training.

"If it were not for an emergency in the family, I would have attended all the sessions. My previous records would show that I had been attending sessions," said Maratita, who was sworn in in July to fill the vacancy left when former representative Diego Benavente resigned.

In the Senate, Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) was the only other senator to miss two of seven sessions.

Torres said yesterday he was "off island because of a family medical issue," that's why he missed the Oct. 18 and Oct. 20 sessions.

Seven of nine senators had perfect attendance during the quarter.

In the House, seven of 20 members had at least one absence led by Maratita with three.

Reps. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) and Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) had two absences each.

House Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan), House minority leader Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), Rep. Ray Palacios (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan) and Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota) each had one absence.

Ogumoro and Deleon Guerrero were in Kosrae to attend the Federated States of Micronesia for the 52nd Association of Pacific Island Legislatures' board of directors meeting in November.

Ogumoro said while she always makes it a point to attend all House sessions and meetings, she also had to attend the APIL meeting. Saipan will host the next APIL general assembly in June this year.

Santos, for her part, said she was not feeling well that's why she missed one session.

Some of those with absences said while they missed one or a few sessions, this does not mean they are less effective in lawmaking. Some criticized others with perfect attendance, some of whom they said would only show up for "attendance" purposes and then leave the gallery shortly and fail to vote on legislation.

Govt employees' credit union seeks $500K infusion to survive

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Due to a large drop in revenue, the Commonwealth Government Employees Credit Union is seeking an emergency infusion of funds in order to generate new monies for its operation.

NMI Retirement Fund board chair Sixto K. Igisomar and administrator Richard Villagomez disclosed that the pension agency has been approached by the union asking for an immediate infusion of $500,000 so it could continue its lending program.

Saipan Tribune learned that credit union has asked the Fund to allow it to refinance its existing loan so it could avail of the needed amount.

The credit union is one of the four local investments of the pension agency.

According to Villagomez, the Fund loaned the union $2 million in August 1996. He estimates that about half of the loan has been repaid.

Because of the current financial state of the pension agency, Villagomez said the Fund cannot readily agree to the union's request pending a clear analysis of how much the Fund would earn if it further invests in the union.

In a Dec. 15, 2011, letter to Villagomez, credit union acting general manager Ruth Ann Sakisat said they are behind in remitting their loan payment to the Fund since September 2011 because of a significant drop in union revenue. She did not elaborate on this in her letter.

"We would like to request the NMIRF's assistance in further investing with us through the refinancing of our existing loan for $2 million at a lower interest rate, possibly at 5 percent for another 30-year term with at least $500,000 of new funds for our lending program," said Sakisat.

She urged the Fund's immediate action, saying the credit union's existence will depend on the infusion of new funds to expand its lending program.

The Fund's board of trustees discussed the union's request during Friday's regular meeting but put off making any decisions until all its questions are answered.

Igisomar instructed Villagomez to work with the union and ask for more information. The board expects Villagomez to provide an analysis and evaluation of the union's financial standing for discussion.

Villagomez told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that in order for the Fund to consider the union's request, an analysis is needed showing how the additional $500,000 would reduce the union's losses and how much the Fund could earn from the additional investment.

For Villagomez, credit unions are only as strong as its membership, so the CGECU needs to boost its membership to survive.

Sakisat declined to comment on the matter yesterday, pending

Hart, Lizama in Calif. to testify at commission assembly

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Marianas College president Sharon Y. Hart and Board of Regents chair Juan T. Lizama are now in California to testify at the assembly of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges this week.

The two officials are scheduled to speak today on how the college is meeting the commission's accreditation standards and eligibility requirements.

The two-day conference is slated for Jan. 10 and 11. The college expects to get word in February whether it will retain its accreditation.

Saipan Tribune learned that Day 1 of the meeting is a public session, while the second day is for the commission's executive session, where the college's accreditation status will be specifically discussed.

NMC is currently on probation following its failure to address team recommendations in its show-cause report. These recommendations aim to address deficiencies in three areas: autonomy from outside interference, financial management and integrity, and governance and accountability.

In a statement to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, NMC said that both Hart and Lizama will be providing information that demonstrates NMC's compliance with accreditation standards. Hart is expected to present an oral report to the commission, disclosing additional progress and successes of the college in meeting accreditation standards.

NMC said it is unable at this time to give further details about its presentation at the California assembly due to the commission's policy on public disclosure.

In the meantime, Hart, in a statement yesterday, stressed that the college is already busy preparing for the self-evaluation report that is due for submission to the commission later this year.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
A&E DESIGN OF THE ROTA SANITARY LANDFILL- PHASE I
RFP12-GOV-036

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lieutenant Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Office, (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified consultants to provide A&E Design of the Rota Sanitary Landfill- Phase I, located at Tatagchog on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, or latest revision thereof. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI).

The complete Scope of Work for the A&E design services required will be available on Thursday, January 12, 2012 at the Governor's CIP Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, CNMI. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars (US $50.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the CIP Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building on Capitol Hill. Questions regarding the Request for Proposal (RFP) must be submitted in writing to Mr. James R. Stump, CIP Contracting Officer, CIP Office, or faxed to (670) 664-2408, no later than 4 p.m., ChST Tuesday, January 26, 2012.

Proposers must submit with their proposal a project approach and a schedule of completion, addressing the scope of work requirements with details of how the work will be performed and accomplished by the consultants, with the names of the responsible persons identified and experiences of the responsible individuals of the team. The total proposal length shall not exceed fifty (50) pages in length. Note, a firm that submits a proposal as a prime consultant cannot also submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, as a subcontractor, the consultant may be included in multiple proposals by different consultants.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1.	Qualifications and background of the company(s) and proposed assigned personnel	- 25%
2.	Past experience of the consultant on design of similar projects	- 20%
3.	Project approach and schedule for completion	- 35%
4.	Demonstrated capability of ability to perform the work required	- 20%

Performance time for completion of the A&E Design of the Rota Sanitary Landfill- Phase I is One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days upon issuance of a Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed and shall be the greater of (i) Two Hundred Dollars (US$200.00), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by the number of calendar days of the contract time, the contract time and contract price being determined at the time of the assessment of liquidated damages for each and every day beyond the established completion date.

Discussions shall be conducted with the top three ranked (3) firms. After a selection is made, negotiations will be conducted with the highest qualified firm to determine the final fair and reasonable price of the contract for the work to be performed. The successful proposers will be subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

Proposals must be sealed and marked "**RFP12- GOV-036, A&E Design of the Rota Sanitary Landfill- Phase I**". For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP, no later than 10:00 a.m. ChST, February 13, 2012. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of intent to propose. Notices of intent to propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., ChST, February 13, 2012 and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than, February 13, 2012, and must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than February 22, 2012. Failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ Eloy S. Inos, Lieutenant Governor /s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director of Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-12-005

PROCUREMENT & INSTALLATION OF LED STREET LIGHTS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified and experienced firms for the procurement and installation of Light Emitting Diodes (LED) Street Lights on Saipan, Tinian and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) under the AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA).

The Bid Packet may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card, in the amount of $100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at 10:00 AM (ChST) on January 4, 2012 at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-12-005, Procurement and Installation of Light Emitting Diodes (LED) Street Lights" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on January 19, 2012 at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety firm holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety firm must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety firm must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

The bidder is required to submit a copy of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page – http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm. The contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on January 9, 2012 to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Alfredo Palattao, Power Division Engineer via email alfred.palattao@cucgov.org and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Administrative Assistant, Procurement & Supply via mika.muna@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

Study: Reef fisheries have large financial value to local tourism

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

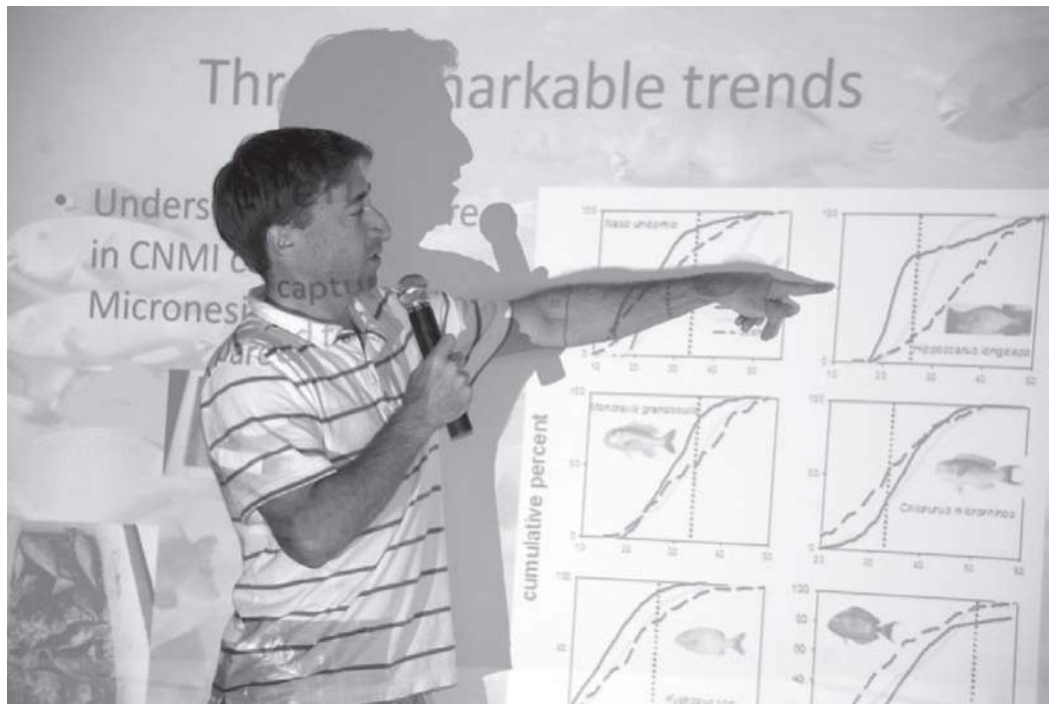
Besides its ecological use, Saipan's reef fisheries also have a high financial value particularly in the tourism industry, upon which the Commonwealth's dwindling economic revenues are profoundly dependent.

Dr. Peter Houk, chief biologist for the Pacific Marine Resources Institute, said yesterday that the latest study they conducted "put a dollar value" on the coral reefs around the island based on how much money and time a tourist would spend during their stay, including airport landing fees, hotel expenses, and other related costs.

Speaking before the Rotary Club of Saipan at the Hyatt Regency Saipan, Houk disclosed that Mañagaha has the highest value among the island's reefs, with the biggest number of tourists visiting the island for its water activities.

Surprisingly, Houk said, Lau Lau Bay, despite its declining health, is the second most valuable reef, representing a value between $300,000 to $400,000 per square kilometer.

The reefs' direct relation to the tourism industry reinforces the need to promote sustainable fishing on the islands to ensure not only its health but also livelihoods in the long run, according to Houk, who attended the meeting with PMRI's first executive director Greg Moretti,



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Dr. Peter Houk, chief biologist for the Pacific Marine Resources Institute, points to his presentation during the Rotary Club of Saipan membership meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan yesterday.

Hook called for better enforcement of fishing regulations, limiting fish sizes in the market, and implementing a quota system that ensures a peer-to-peer check and balance system, all of which are aimed at preserving the long-term profitability of the CNMI's reef fisheries.

ON THE NET
PMRI website: www.pacmares.com

Houk led the team that conducted the study, called "Commercial Coral-Reef Fisheries Across Micronesia: A Need for Improving Management," which was done with other scientists from different government organizations, universities, and non-profit groups. The team included Dr. Jenny McIlwain, Dr. Kevin Rhodes, Dr. Steve Lindfeld, Javier Cuetos-Bueno, Vanessa Fread, and other marine biology interns.

The study, conducted in 2009 to 2010, involved surveying four major fish markets in the CNMI and measuring over 20,000 fish. It revealed "remarkable trends" about the Commonwealth's coral reef fisheries in contrast to other jurisdictions in Micronesia.

For one, Houk said that the "vast majority" of the fish harvested in the CNMI were captured before they had the chance to reproduce or have offspring. For example, average size of unicorn fish harvested on Saipan is between 20 to 25 centimeters or smaller than the recommended 30 to 35 cm.

The size of a fish, Houk said, does not only denote a bigger reproductive output but also a better ecological efficiency since bigger fish are able to clean eight times the area of a coral reef than that of a smaller fish.

Houk also noted that the composition of the CNMI's fish catches is dominated by parrotfish and unicorn fish—the same kind of fish catches in Guam where scuba fishing is allowed.

According to Houk, there should be higher proportions of surgeon fish than parrotfish or unicorn fish in CNMI catches, given that only free diving is allowed on the islands. This indicates that majority of fish here are being caught through the illegal use of scuba equipment.

The composition trend, he added, also proves that the CNMI is "fishing down the food chain," which is not a sign of sustainable fishing as well.

Houk pointed out that he has brought up this issue with the government, including some lawmakers and related agencies. At present, he said PMRI wants to get the information out to the public to increase their awareness about the importance of caring for the islands' fisheries.

The study is available at PMRI's website, www.pacmares.com.

Commonwealth Zoning Board
JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Zoning Administrative Assistant

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Zoning Administrative Assistant. This is a full-time position on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Duties and Responsibilities: Receive and screen phone calls and visitors; Type, deliver, and mail correspondences; Schedule office appointments and meetings; Provide applicants with application materials and contacts applicants to submit additional information, as required; Receive and record incoming mail, permit applications and related documents; Secure office supplies, materials, and equipment and maintains an inventory; Prepare and follow-up on purchase requisitions/orders and travel authorizations; Enter data from zoning permit files into the zoning database; Track the status of zoning expenses using spreadsheets and/or the JD Edwards accounting system; Maintain permit, project, financial, and personnel records; Assist in formulating and implementing office standards and procedures; Perform other administrative duties, as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
High School Graduate; 2 years of progressive experience in administrative work.

Other:
Proficiency with office software including MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook Explorer. Familiarity with JD Edwards system. Good communication and people skills. Ability to work flexible hours, including some evenings and weekends. Valid CNMI Driver's License

The salary is $20,000.00. Health, life and retirement benefits are provided. Information about the Zoning Board and the Zoning Office may be viewed at the Zoning Board website: www.zoning.gov.mp. Application submittals should be addressed to the Acting Zoning Administrator. Submittals may be sent via e-mail or hand delivered to the address below. Submittals must include a letter of interest, a CNMI Application for Employment, and a resume. Applicants must be US citizens, permanent residents or immediate relatives. Send submittals to: E-mail: Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp or by Hand Delivery to Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

The deadline to receive applications and all requirements is Thursday, January 19, 2012 at 4:00pm.

Judge hears 7 new removable cases

The U.S. Immigration Court held hearings on 21 cases yesterday, including seven new removal cases.

Judge Clarence M. Wagner of Honolulu conducted the proceedings via video conference.

Saipan Tribune learned that Wagner found one respondent removable. The respondent, however, is seeking asylum and applying withholding of removal.

Two other respondents failed to appear but were given another hearing date. The judge continued most of the cases.

Of the seven new removal cases, six are Chinese nationals and one is an FSM national.

Last Thursday, Wagner also heard via video conference 13 removal cases on Saipan.

Hundreds of removal cases have been filed with the Saipan Immigration Court since the federalization law took effect on Nov. 28, 2009. Many of the respondents have criminal convictions. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Slots open for NCRS student summer jobs program

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service has announced openings for its Summer Student Temporary Employment Program or STEP.

Designed to provide students with career enhancing work experience, this program allows temporary appointment of students who would fill positions in the areas of Agriculture, Agricultural Engineering, Agronomy, Biology, Botany, Forestry, Natural Resources, Plant Science, Rangeland Management, Soil Conservation, and Soil Science.

These students are appointed in productive, hands-on job assignments that have to do with the inventory, conservation and enhancement of the Pacific Islands Area's natural resources.

Students are required to work a full-time schedule during the summer and in turn receive compensation and cost of living allowance depending on which Pacific Islands Area office they will work and the length of their study.

For the State of Hawaii:

- GS-3 - $12.19/hour – completion of one year of study
- GS-4 - $13.69/hour – completion of two years of study
- GS-5 - $15.31/hour – completion of four years of study

Saipan and American Samoa:

- GS-3 - $11.95/hour – completion of one year of study
- GS-4 - $13.41/hour – completion of two years of study
- GS-5 - $15.00/hour – completion of four years of study

Transportation expenses and a housing stipend may be available for students recruited outside the area of employment.

Available positions are in Natural Resources, Soil Conservation, Soil Science or Agricultural Engineering on Saipan, American Samoa, Aiea in the island of Oahu, and Hilo, Waimea, or Kealakekua in Hawaii.

Eligible students must be U.S. citizens and at least 18 years old; enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a degree-seeking student in an accredited technical or vocational school, two-year or four-year college or university, or graduate or professional school; and taking at least a half-time course load as determined by the academic institution.

Interested students must include in their application personal resume that indicates the announcement number NRCS-PIA-12-01T, the specific work location and position for which they wish to be considered, and all relevant work experience and outside activities.

Applications should also include completed Form OF-306 or Declaration of Federal Employment, which can be found at www.opm.gov/forms and college transcripts. Unofficial copy of transcript is permitted. Applications submitted without transcripts will not be considered while transcripts submitted separately will not be accepted.

Applications should be mailed to USDA/NRCS-PIA 300 Ala Moana Blvd. #4-118 P.O. Box 50004 Honolulu, Hawaii 96850 Attn: Tracy Sakato, HR.

All applications must be received by the USDA NRCS office on the closing date on Feb. 15.

For more information, call 808-541-2600 Ext. 154.

Cervical Cancer Health Walk set today

In celebration of Cervical Cancer Awareness Month, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has scheduled awareness health walks for all Wednesdays of the month starting today.

The walk, sponsored by the Grace Christian Academy volleyball team, will start at 4:30pm at the Oleai Beach Pavilion up to the old Japanese tank across the Quartermaster Road and back.

Cervical Cancer Awareness Month Committee chair Kimberly Sablan said there will be free T-shirts or water bottles for the first 50 participants.

The Comprehensive Cancer Control Program and the Tobacco Prevention Program of the healthcare corporation will provide the giveaways.

Besides the health walks, Sablan said there are other activities lined up for the celebration of the Cervical Cancer Awareness Month, including celebrity bagging at the Joeten Store on Saturday and possibly outreach sessions in government offices.

Sablan encouraged the community to take part in the health walks. For more information, call 236-8728. ***(Clarissa V. David)***

Public warned of high surf seen to last until Friday

The Guam-based National Weather Service has issued a high surf advisory for Guam, Rota, Tinian, and Saipan that will remain in effect until 6pm Friday. A small craft advisory also remains in effect until 6pm Friday.

In both advisories issued yesterday, NWS is urging the public to avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches, especially those along east facing reefs as rip currents are life threatening.

NWS said a high pressure just north of the Marianas islands and strong winds on the south side of the high are creating large northeast swells. The swells will produce hazardous surf along east-facing exposures of the Marianas for the next few days.

NWS projects surf to be between 10 and 12 feet on east facing reefs through late Friday afternoon. Surf is expected to fall below hazardous levels by Friday evening.

Combined seas of 10 to 12 feet and winds of 20 to 25 knots with stronger gusts near showers are expected through Friday, producing conditions hazardous for small boat operations.

Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid boating in these conditions. If travel by boat is necessary exercise caution, especially near reef lines and while entering or leaving harbors and inlets. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Saipan Chamber to install new officers on Jan. 21

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will hold its 2012 installation dinner for officers and directors at the Fiesta Hotel & Resort Spa on Saturday, Jan. 21, 2012. Nine board members and officers will be sworn in by Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman.

Sworn in will be president Douglas Brennan, Microl Corp; vice president Vince J. Seman, Century Insurance; treasurer Mike Johnson, Deloitte; secretary Jolene G. Torres, MITA Travel; board members David M. Sablan, Century Insurance; Alex A. Sablan, Saipan Shipping Co.; Velma Palacios, IT&E; and Melvin Tenorio, Marianas Pacific Distributors.

The annual gala event will begin at 6pm for preliminaries and dinner will be served at 7pm. Attire is business formal and the event will be staged at the Fiesta Hotel and Resort Spa's Hibiscus Hall.

This year's keynote speaker will be Jerry Tan, president of Tan Holdings Corp. Tan, as president of THC and former chairman of the Marianas Visitors Authority, will present his prognosis for business within the CNMI in travel, tourism, future investment, and the emerging Chinese and Russian tourism markets.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Chris Concepcion and Esther Sound of Delta Air Lines contribute a Delta round trip airline ticket to Japan to Richard A. Pierce, executive director for the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, for the 2012 Installation Dinner raffle event.

The Chamber will also announce at the installation dinner its annual Saipan Chamber of Commerce Businessperson of the Year Award. The 2012 nominees are Jim Arenovski of Delta Management Corp., Mike S. Johnson of Deloitte, James E. Nelson of Docomo Pacific Inc., and Tony Pellegrino of Saipan Sea Ventures.

The Businessperson of the Year selection is made based upon the nominee's community involvement and contributions, support for the local workforce and active participation in the Chamber. Former awardees comprise a committee that notifies the Chamber directors and officers of their choice for Businessperson of the Year.

The 2012 installation dinner will continue with its tradition of holding a silent auction and raffle drawing to support fundraising for the Chamber's Education Committee's Student Scholarship Program. To date, DFS Galleria, Delta Air Lines, Hyatt Regency Saipan, IT&E, Saipan Grand Hotel, D&Q Saipan, Coca Cola Beverage Co. and Safety 1st Systems, Inc. have donated prizes for the auction and raffle. Others have committed and will be announced the night of the installation dinner.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce, founded in 1959 and incorporated in 1976, is the largest private business organization in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Chamber works to promote and protect business, economic and civic interests, and the general health and welfare of our islands. ***(SCC)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MMAC team meeting set for Jan. 12

The 2012 Marianas March Against Cancer Committee will be holding its next team captains' meeting on Thursday, Jan. 12, 2012, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room. The meeting will begin promptly at 5:30pm. "We're inviting all MMAC teams to attend as well as all schools, businesses, non-profit organizations, government agencies or families interested in participating in MMAC 2012," said 2012 MMAC overall committee chair Catherine Attao-Toves. "All funds raised at the MMAC are used for cancer patient assistance and other cancer-related services so we ask that all members of the community attend this important meeting. Cancer is one of the leading causes of death in the CNMI so we appreciate the community's assistance in raising badly needed funds," said Attao-Toves. For more information on the 2012 MMAC, email attao20@gmail.com or emanuel.borja@gmail.com or visit www.ccamarianas.org. ***(MMAC)***

Oleai school PTSA meeting set

The PTSA officers of Oleai Elementary School would like to inform the parents and guardians of Oleai Elementary School that there will be a PTSA meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2012, 6pm, in the school cafeteria. Everyone is encouraged to attend. ***(PR)***

Air Force training on Farallon de Medinilla

Santa Rita, Guam—The Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Jan. 13, from 8am to 3pm. The public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. ***(USN)***

First aid/CPR/AED training dates

- Adult CPR/AED: Jan. 11, today, 6pm-9pm
- First Aid: Jan. 12, tomorrow, 6pm-9pm
- Adult CPR/AED: Jan. 14, Saturday, 8am-11am
- First Aid: Jan. 14, Saturday, 1pm-4pm
- Adult First Aid/CPR/AED: Jan. 21, Saturday, 8am-1pm
- Adult CPR/AED, Jan. 24, Tuesday, 6pm-9pm
- First Aid: Jan. 25, Wednesday, 6pm-9pm

Contact the American Red Cross-Northern Mariana Islands Chapter at 234-3459 to register. To learn more, visit www.redcross.org/training. ***(ARC)***

JOE HILL, Esq.,
HILL LAW OFFICES
P.O. Box 500917, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 234-6806/7743
Fax: (670) 234-7753

Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

TEOFILO V. MOLINYAWE, Petitioner, versus **SONIA REGIS-MOLINYAWE,** Respondent.	**FCD DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0470** **SUMMONS**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewee, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon petitioner's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for your to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.

By order of the above Court:

Dated this 13th day of October, 2011.

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court
Superior Court

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff, **-v-** **SINGERU I. TECHUR and DIONICIA K. TECHUR, fka DIONICIA Q. KAPILEO,** Defendants.	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 96-0354** **TENTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to Order issued by the Court in this matter on December 15, 2011, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 005 I 274, situated in Koblerville, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 939 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 005 I 05, the original of which was registered with the Commonwealth Recorder's Office as File No. 84-1364 on the 31st day of July 1984. The sale is subject to such liens and encumbrances upon the property as appear of record.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, January 27, 2012, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 20th day of December, 2011:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Commonwealth Cancer Association
AWARENESS•EDUCATION•HOPE

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

The Commonwealth Cancer Association (CCA) is the community-based cancer support organization for the Northern Mariana Islands dedicated to eliminating cancer and saving lives by providing Advocacy, Awareness, Education, Services and HOPE for all its constituents

CCA is a non-profit organization managed by a 7 member Board of Directors who represents the diversity of the CNMI, CCA's operational funding is fully supported by contributions from corporations, families and individuals.

Position Description: Program Manager

As a Program Manager you will serve as an advocate for the CCA, supporting the CCA's mission and helping the organization better communicate who we are and what we do for the people who need us most, Eligible candidates need qualifications enabling them to fulfill the following key responsibilities:

- Manage budget and comply with stringent guidelines for program services offered to cancer patients and constituents
- Coordinate and collaborate with the Cancer Council of the Pacific Islands CNMI Representative and the CNMI Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan (CCCP) and effectively collaborate with the Program Manager to advocate and further our mission goals
- Develop, manage and grow revenue goals through multiple, fundraising events and collateral sales
- Assist the Event Chairperson(s) and participate in efficiently carrying out our signature fundraising event the "Marianas March Against Cancer", by attending Organization Committee and Team Captain meetings
- Mobilize and coordinate a CNMI community-wide volunteer working committee to implement the CNMI CCCP
- Develop and cultivate community partnerships/relationships and participate in appropriate coalitions
- Prepare/disseminate reports and publications such as an annual report, monthly performance report, bulletins, brochures, flyers, and various other promotional and educational cancer-related materials
- Assertively promote CCA Advocacy, initiatives, education and services to schools, worksites and community leaders to effectively build broad based support for our mission
- Seek monetary and in-kind donations from our business, community, private/public grants and endowments through direct solicitation, grant application and or bartering of goods and services
- Capture and track constituents served from our projects and services
- Comply and demonstrate ability to work within established budgets
- Effectively arrange monthly board meetings and other work as assigned by the President or his/her designee
- Plan ahead and always anticipate what is wanted and needed and be out in front in seeing that we meet our goals and responsibilities to the community.

Qualifications and Position Requirements:

- AA Degree and/or equivalent combination of education and experience
- Two years experience in sales, event management, customer service or volunteer management
- Demonstrated project management skills with high attention to detail and ability to multi task and delegate
- Demonstrated ability to inspire volunteers
- Strong relationship building skills
- Possess high energy, positive attitude
- Ability to maintain professional demeanor
- Must be a team player who can effectively work and interact with volunteers and the public
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Demonstrated presentation skills
- Proficient with Microsoft Office Suite more specifically MS Publisher, Adobe Photoshop or comparable software, database and spreadsheet management, e-mail software and Internet browsers
- Travel to Rota, Tinian, regional and Stateside may be required and will be funded by CCA as Contracting Party
- Evening and weekend work required

Condition of Employment and Remuneration:

- Independent Contract Agreement - At Will, Exempt Contract Employment
- Contract remuneration $25,000,00 to $32,000,00 per annum depending on qualifications and experience.
- This position requires that you have a 2011-2012 CNMI Business License
- U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident-Hire Only
- Please submit cover letter and resume by the deadline of **January 16, 2012 at 5:00PM** to the CCA email at cca@ccamarianas.org, or hand deliver it to the CCA office located in Gualo Rai. Address your cover letter to Bud White, President of CCA, or to Maggie Camacho, Chair of the Selection Committee. For more information, please call our office at 682-0050

Russian-style Christmas fête rocks PIC

Ded Moroz, the Russian relative of Santa Claus, entertains the younger audience at the event. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Some 230 Russian guests at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan took part in the Orthodox Christmas Party at The Magellan Restaurant on Saturday. Guests were treated to a conventional festive menu and entertained with songs, games, quizzes, and raffle draws fit for the holiday celebration.

The restaurant itself was decorated in traditional Russian style called "gzhel." Hotel staff also wore traditional Russian shirts and dresses "to ensure that they suit the party's folk theme," according to Elly Stoilova, PIC marketing manager for Web/Russia/CIS.

"It was for sure a party to remember. A Russian repeater guest complimented the hotel management for organizing such an excellent event," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Wait staff at The Magellan Restaurant of Pacific Islands Club line up to welcome the guests.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Pacific Islands Club staff are also dressed in traditional Russian costumes to suit the party's folk theme.

Russian celebrities MC Pospelov, his son Roman, and DJ Vitaliy Rogozin, who provided live entertainment, were also garbed in a handmade costume with gzhel figures and gzhel-themed T-shirts.

Ded Moroz, the Russian relative of Santa Claus, and his granddaughter Snegurochka also surprised the guests and gave away Saipanda backpacks from the Marianas Visitors Authority.

According to Stoilova, the party's success can be attributed to the beautiful setup, delicious food, exciting gifts and giveaways, and professional entertainment.

Among the exciting raffle prizes were optional tours at SandCastle, Stars and Stripes, Saipan Sunset Cruise, Saipan Sea Venture, submarine, go-karting, sightseeing tours with Belka Tours, and massages at Mandi Asian Spa. Other guests received gifts from Joeten Shopping Center, LA TAX, Tasi Tours, Lollipops, Made in Saipan, Marianas Coffee, and PIC Saipan and Guam.

Over $1,000 worth of raffle tickets sold at the event will benefit the orphans at the Children's Hospital #3 in Vladivostok, Russia as part "Sharing Seeds," the hotel's charity project. The hotel began helping the young orphans in 2009 and has already installed new windows and doors, building partitions, purchasing diapers, food, and other necessities. PIC aims to change the hospital's old doors for their next project.

"The Orthodox Christmas Party for sure created a lot of unforgettable memories which Russian guests will bring back to Russia and share with family, relatives, friends and coworkers," added Stoilova.

Local businesses that donated items for the party included DFS, King's Jewelry, Hertz, Microl Toyota, 360 Restaurant, Hyatt, Tony Roma's & Capricciosa's, Truong's, Islander, Gold's Gym, and the MVA.

PIC is scheduled to celebrate the Russian Orthodox New Year this Saturday.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jan. 11, 2000

Tight monitoring of public funds' use sought

In attempts to continue stretching the Commonwealth's dwindling resources in order not to disrupt the delivery of basic social services, the government has been urged to strictly monitor its use of public funds. At the same time, Sen. Ramon S. Deleon Guerrero dared the government's financial managers to come up with a workable plan of action to arrest possible consequences of a depleting public coffers like "payless paydays." "We should account for every penny we spend from the public fund. There should be a strict articulation of our use of government money," said Guerrero.

Teno eyes closer cooperation with new legislature

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio is mum on the move by the Senate to force acting Attorney General Maya B. Kara out of office, but he may have another plan in the offing to give in to pressures by lawmakers. He disclosed that he will meet with members of his Cabinet soon to discuss ways on how to work closely with members of the Legislature and the business community as he pledged at the inaugural session Monday. "We have to find a way to continue to exchange communications that need to be done in order for us to improve the [laws] we have now," Mr. Tenorio told reporters in an interview yesterday.

Jan. 11, 2001

Fund optimistic: Legislature will bail out GHLIP

Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund board chair Vicente Camacho yesterday said he is still optimistic that the Legislature will be able to bail out the government's Health Insurance program of its more than $3 million debt. Mr. Camacho said he will meet with the House Committee on Health and Welfare to reiterate the financial assistance that they need to settle the debt with Honolulu-based Straub Clinic & Hospital and Queens Medical Center. The two health providers have been seeking payment from the NMIRF which handles the health insurance since last year. However, cash-strapped GHLI has not been able to settle its debt.

MVA seeks more funds from CIP

As part of its priority program for this fiscal year, the Marianas Visitors Authority will ask the Legislature to include the development of tourist sites in the list of Capital Improvement Projects which the administration will undertake. MVA Board Chair Dave M. Sablan said he will ask the legislative leaders to provide the needed $8 million funding so that the tourism agency can begin planning for the improvement of tourist sites this year. "We need new tourist attractions to sell the islands and we cannot afford to sit back and wait for the visitors to come here," said Mr. Sablan. Improvement of tourist sites cover the three islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

Jan. 11, 2002

NMI awarded $91K in food, shelter funds

The US government chose the Northern Marianas to receive $91,715 in federal funds to supplement the Commonwealth's food and shelter programs. The selection was made by a National Board that is chaired by the Federal Emergency Management Administration and consists of representatives from The Salvation Army; American Red Cross; United Jewish Communities; Catholic Charities, USA; National Council of the Churches of Christ in the US; and the United Way of America, which will provide the administrative staff and function as fiscal agent. The Board was charged to distribute funds appropriated by Congress to help expand the capacity of food and shelter programs in high-need areas around the country.

Lizama vs MRC: Defense appeals lower court judgments

The Marianas Rental Corporation is seeking a Supreme Court review of judgments executed by the Superior Court on a civil complaint initiated by Juan T. Lizama, a case that has spanned over a decade. MRC, doing business as National Rent-A-Car, is appealing decisions made by the lower court dating as far back as September 24, 1990 through then Presiding Judge Robert A. Heftier. His order dismissed complaints against Tokyo Marine and Fire Insurance Co. Ltd. and Pacifica Insurance Underwriters Inc.. The defense through counsel Douglas Cuisine is also seeking a review of a court order authored by Associate Judge Marry W. K. Taylor on October 11, 1994 as well as judgments executed by Associate Judge Pro Temper Joaquin V.E. Manibusan Jr. last year.

Pacific

18-year-old fisherman falls overboard near A. Samoa

HONOLULU—The Coast Guard is searching for an 18-year-old mariner who fell overboard 115 miles south of American Samoa on Monday.

Watchstanders in Joint Rescue Coordination Center Honolulu were notified Sunday that the master of the U.S.-flagged fishing vessel *Siva Moana* fell overboard while recovering fishing gear. He was not wearing a lifejacket.

A Royal New Zealand Air Force P-3 Orion search plane was launched to begin a search as the Coast Guard prepared to launch. A Coast Guard aircrew piloting an HC-130 Hercules airplane from Air Station Barbers Point was launched Sunday to assist in the search. The Hercules aircrew relieved the crew of the P-3 and searched Sunday. The Hercules crew completed a search with no sign of the mariner before landing in Pago Pago, American Samoa. The aircrew plans to conduct another search Monday.

Coast Guard watchstanders are utilizing the Search and Rescue Optimal Planning System to determine the search area with the highest probability for locating the missing mariner. SAROPS is a computer program that calculates environmental factors such as weather, wind speed and direction, current speed and direction, and the size of the search object. From that data, a search area is calculated. In addition to SAROPS, the Hercules aircrew deployed two self-locating data marker buoys, which also calculate and measure currents to better assist search and rescue teams in coordinating their search patterns.

The *Siva Moana* remains in the area and will begin searching at first light.

The HC-130 Hercules provides the Coast Guard the ability to conduct long-range searches across the Pacific. These aircraft, which have been in service for more than five decades across the Coast Guard, are being modernized to meet long-range maritime patrol requirements in areas such as the Pacific, that cannot be patrolled efficiently by medium range surveillance aircraft or cutters. Six HC-130J models have been added to the fleet and 16 HC-130H models are being modernized. These airplanes offer extended range, which allows aircrews to fly longer and farther. The upgraded models are a part of the Coast Guard's ongoing acquisition program, an initiative to improve and sustain the service's aging fleet. Air Station Barbers Point has four HC-130H models. ***(U.S. Coast Guard)***

Palau approves renewable energy act

»Net metering facilitates customer-based renewable energy generation

KOROR, Palau (Island Times/PIR)—The Palau Net Metering Act that will facilitate a system of customer-based renewable energy generation was approved into law Friday.

The new law, which is authored by Senator Paul Ueki and designated as RPPL No. 8-39, allows consumers of electricity to establish renewable energy-powered generation system to produce electricity for their own use and to supply excess electricity to the electric service provider.

The law requires electric service providers to offset charges for electricity by the amount of electricity supplied by the customer from its own energy-powered generation system. The electric service provider is prohibited under the law from imposing additional charges or fees to customers participating in a net metering program.

The law requires customers to meet certain safety requirements before establishing its own renewable energy-powered generation system.

President Toribiong, in signing the new law, expressed that the encouragement of the use of solar power by private persons is perhaps one of the most important things the Republic of Palau can do to help in the fight against climate change.

Toribiong said that the national government is also making efforts against climate change by using solar power at the Capitol, hospital, Ministry of Education and Palau International Airport.

"Ultimately, if enough people install solar panels we can reduce the generating requirements of the Palau Public Utility Corporation and staunch the flow of our money going off-island to pay for fuel. That money can be put to better purposes. And this legislation is line with our Micronesian regional policy of Green Energy Micronesia (GEM)," the president said.

PACIFIC BRIEFS

New Caledonia storm causes millions in damage

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—The damage caused by New Caledonia's unseasonably heavy rain in Houailou last month is estimated to be in excess of three million U.S. dollars. The town in the north of the main island was hit by more than half a meter of rain in 24 hours on Christmas Eve, the territory's heaviest recorded downpour. According to local press reports, 196 households have suffered losses, with some of them reportedly losing everything. A total of 680 people have been badly affected, with some buildings left filled with more than a meter of mud.

Only one person fined for smoking in Am. Samoa

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—Only one person has been charged for violating the American Samoa Smoke Free Environment Act since the law came into effect a year ago. The law bans smoking in places of employment, government buildings, schools, buses, taxis, restaurants, hotels and any walled place where the public gathers. The single person charged paid a fine of 50 U.S. dollars, the fine for a first offense to the District Court, before Christmas. He was cited for smoking by the door of a store in Fatumafuti. The defendant was of Asian descent and told the court staff that he didn't know about the law. There have been no other citations issued under the law, though many residents have publicly complained about witnessing people smoking on buses or in public buildings yet nothing's been done about it.

Tonga king opposes reducing firearm penalties

NUKU'ALOFA, Tonga (Matangi Tonga/PIR)—A move by the Tongan parliament to reduce penalties for possession of firearms offences has been stopped by Tonga's king who has withheld his Royal Assent. King George Tupou V notified parliament in December that he had withheld his Royal Assent to the Arms and Ammunitions (Amendment) Act 2011 because it was considered to be "inimical to the welfare, well-being and safety of His subjects." On Oct. 11 parliament voted to bypass public consultation on the amendment bill, before passing it, to reduce the penalty for the illegal possession of firearms from 5,000 pa'anga [US$2,900] to 1,000 pa'anga [US$574] and the imprisonment from five years to one year. It comes at a time when some members of parliament, including the Speaker, are facing charges in the courts under the act.

CONGRATULATIONS!
You have won in Mobil's '10,000 Reasons To Smile Promotion!'

Winners from November 11, 2011 to January 5, 2012

10,000 Smiles Points Winners

Name	Smiles Card Number (last 6 digits)	Name	Smiles Card Number (last 6 digits)
Sablan, Juanette	751702	Travilla, Ferdinand	506908
Song, Shang Zhe	304900	Laborce, Dominador	907902
Avendano, Ruben	569502		

5,000 Smiles Points Winners

Name	Smiles Card Number (last 6 digits)	Name	Smiles Card Number (last 6 digits)	Name	Smiles Card Number (last 6 digits)	Name	Smiles Card Number (last 6 digits)
Balmores, Dante Walit	471400	Aldan, Manuela Rosa	989305	Gallardo, Ricardo	270903	Kwon, Ig Sang	649700
Jasmin, Annaliza	412404	Galvan, Shirley	941103	Bautista M, Pepito	417901	Marciano, Wilhelmina	448300
Vega, John Vincent	932500	Choi, Yongmook	287808	Newman, Chanita	514605	Guevarra, Mark Joseph	096003
Cosio. Marilyn	251400	Camacho, Luis Jr	995903	Gabule, Ricky	725808	Cabrera, Carmen	095108
Salazar, Bienvenido	800201	Sablan, Jesus	584609	Algaier, Poonsri	133409	Kabir, Homayan	972600
Cai, Hu	808400	Celis, Rita	844206	Sablan, Evelyn	267107	Lim, Jae Hong	705900
Cayao, Nemesio V.	885309	Cha, Min Ju	152407	Nelson, James	257504	Alexander, Akiky	021406
Flores, Erlinda	172303	Chaudry, Ghazanfar	429107	Pascual, Nelcito	397909	Desebel N, Aya	254608
Feria, Noli	462104	Camacho, Joseph	988705	Ellis, Susana D.	467907	Sebastian, Antonio	072701
Limes, Jose	706806	Aldan, Ramon	935102	Kukkun, Marina	769400	Mateo, Juhn Castillo	895705
Deposa, Ramona	585309	Francisco, Marcial	712507	Quiambao, Virginia	004703	Rosario, Elizabeth	930200
Pinaula, Edward	646408	Salalila, Lednardo Jr	231308	Lely, Christine	635602	Aldan, Jocelyn	850703
Fernandez, Domingo R.	663204	Palacios, Raymond	819601	Xu, Xue Mei	456708	Sizemore, Dongrong	835002
Concepcion, Lawrence	944209	Myung, Sung Jae	802101	Tenorlo, Debra L.	332604	Taitano, Mariano	327005
Castro Fogata, Celing Leilany	483405	Calvo, Pasquana	866601	Eagle Oden, Gene	420909	Hazen, Gina	848907
Lubao, Delfin	457708	Taitano, Bernard	331509	Li, Zhi Yuan	407108	Deleon Guerrero, Kevin	147405
Guanco, Alex	602801	Kim, Hyung Ji	918809	Baek, Haeng Cheor	879207	Hayes, Amanda	017906
Tomita, Shigeru	286503	Ngrcta, Setatin	348301	Secharkebur, Maria Ana O.	298609	Santos, Adonis	105906
Nagata, Yumiko	085006	Laniyo, Zenaida Paz	328901	Zheng, Jian Qiang	628002	Reyes,Teresita	933007
Lee, Seonghze	012809	Mollah, Masirul	416101	Lazaga, Francisco	822903	Palacios, Michael	728903
Wahed, MD	782004	Cabrera, Barbara	679601	Naraja, Dominador	344608	Saures, Vina Claire	323504
Aldan, Juan	982906	Nario, Alejandro	795405	Matsumoto, James	725009	Saplan, Virginia	678108
Elieisar, Memorino	856700	Viray, Virgilio	431900	Kimura, Hiroyuki	477709	Quiambao, Armando	184302
Titer, Nena P.	749300	Rangamar, Ellas	178205	Camacho, Jay	790408	Orbeta, Teodoro	625301
Mathew, DJ	695803	Ngeskebei, Jose C.	891608	Acfonso, Simeon	840508	Duenas, Ricardo	993502
Bhuyan Oronigo Fitipol, Linda	544300	Yen, Chien-Lon	809800	Navarro, Edward	700601	Alvarez, Manuel Jose	537009
Camu, Ermito	079204	Yukino, Hiromi	492807	Daesia, Camacho	197601	Wiswell, Norman	545809
Sasamoto, Ernestina	219301	Jingcan, Li	309206	Maranan, Agnes	404600	Park, Eunkyung	016107
Buniag, Renato	318701	Cabrera, Shani	215809	Zheng, Xu	817307	Indalecio, John Paul	246706
Zachrias, Walter	736506	Ou, Wei Yuan	904408	Pangelinan, Yvonne	331605	Versola, Leduvino	610207
Ogumoro-Uludong, Alingmar	567605	Ikeda, Mami	151004	Ayson, Reynaldo	813400	Kim, Byung Chul	238704
Camacho, Joeleen	341603	Hemong, Zheng	545909	Evangelista, Ignacia	479101	Valenzuela, Teddy Castilo	858705
Benavente-Tagabuel, Darrah	018509	Pangelinan, Yvonne	331605	Maigue, Ramil	870602	Sablan, Carmen Atalig	925608
Lim, Jae Hong	705900	Magno, Armando	726503	Quitugua, Joey	147100	Magallano, Edy	882200
Reyes, Jose A.	858504	Islam, Rafiqul	272908	Epina, Apiner Seman	409908	Francisco, Mary Ann	589301
Karim, Quazi	496303	Camacho, Calley	468809	Pangelinan, Roy	885508	Albiento, Bayani	439109
Kebukawa, Mayuki	940108	Sanarez, Robin	820104	Xue, Ting Yi	440804	Magofna, Blas	481305
Taitano, Bernard	331509	Alfonso, Teodie	154404	Sablan, Elias	152209	Vesub, Ali	188206
Takashi, Taguchi	652506	Renante, Catigan	355602	Casilla, Maribel	697004	Nepaial, Antonio	063204
Pineda, Jocelyn	710700	Reyes, Phyllisina	484601	Santos, Adonis	105906	Santos, Vonnie	082403
Martinez, Daniel	166507	Feria, Noli	462104	Gumba, Fernando	580905	Santos, Adonis	105906
Sanchez, Gavino	403109	Santos, Rosemond B.	060700	Tang, Yinan Xu	696605		
Agulto, Maria	337908	Pinkerton, Thomas	455000	Lizama, Jose	407402		
Mago, Mariquit	636604	Cabrera, Joseph	270908	Rashid, Mohammed Harunor	117701		
Reyes, James Pangelinan	660309	Bhuiyan, Tawhid	060808	Lim, Jae Hong	705900		
Sablan, Elias	152209	Nario, Jennifer	715808	Mendidla, Daisy	900502		
Santos, Carolyn	804702	Sheu, Tzu Ming	138805	Yasuda, Masanari	313708		
Felix, Rommel	429101	Lizama, David	796205	Saludez, Gilbert	716207		
Cabrera, Max	820005	Bisanen, Marci	782301	Orpino, Leonora	900805		
Reyes, Renato	799700	Iguel, Pamela	553504	Reyes, June	098804		
Ubedei, Daniel	207304	Cabrera, Ignatia	726000	Yun Yong, Zhang	508007		
Tomita, Shigeru	286503	Atalig, Joseph	020000	Kogure, Naoto	283400		
Merante, Misael	930601	Manalo, Elphidia	265206	Huang Xu	622806		

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Opinion

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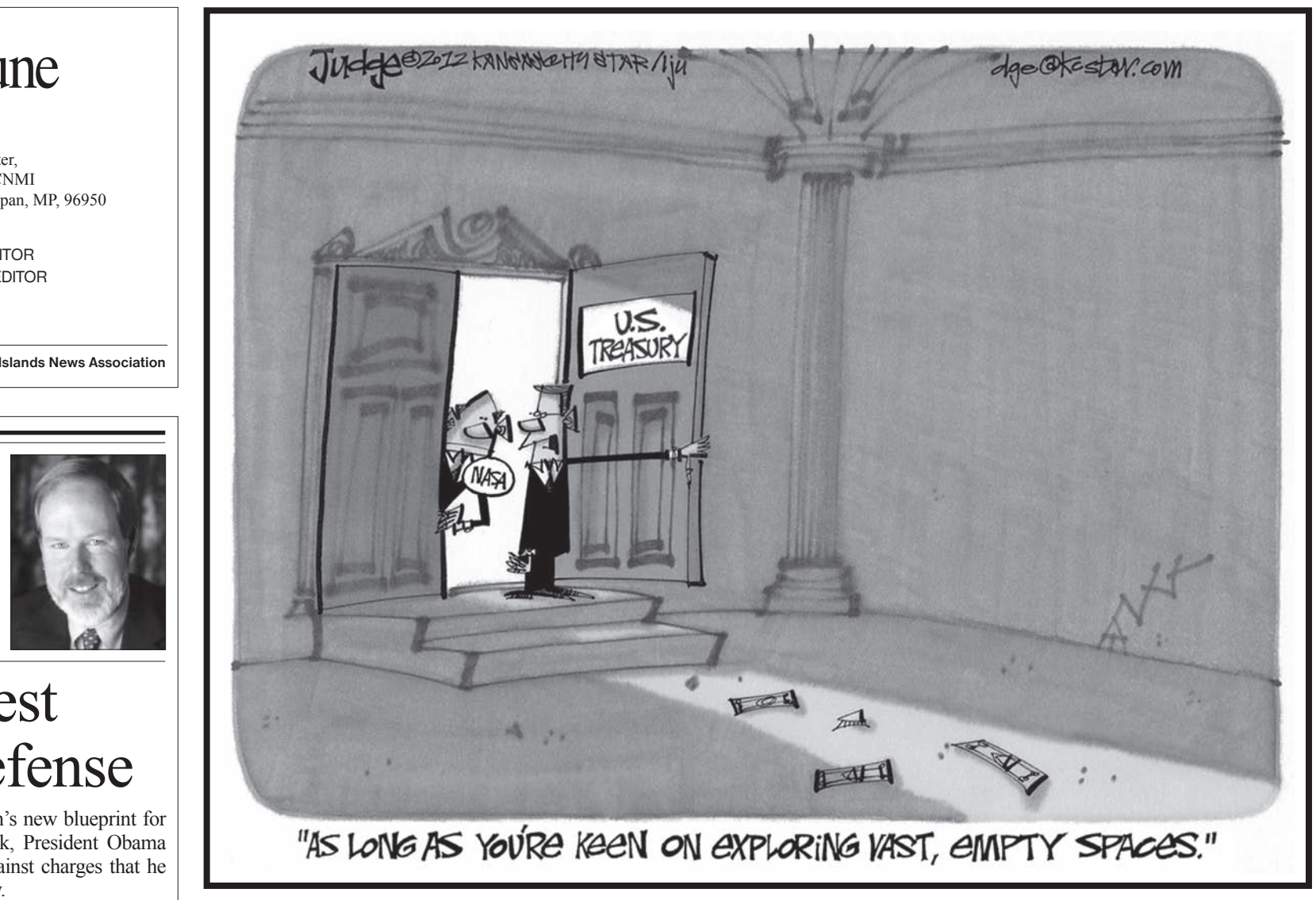

By DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times*. Readers may send him e-mail at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com.*

Obama's modest proposal on defense

As he unveiled his administration's new blueprint for U.S. defense strategy last week, President Obama sought to vaccinate himself against charges that he was gutting the nation's military.

Even after the strategy is fully implemented, he said, "the defense budget will still be larger than it was at the end of the Bush administration."

So it seemed a little odd when, an hour later, the second-ranking official in Obama's Pentagon presented what sounded like a rebuttal.

"You have, over the next four years, a reduction in total defense spending as rapid as any we experienced after Vietnam or after the Cold War," Deputy Defense Secretary Ashton Carter said.

The two statements weren't as contradictory as they sound. When Obama said the defense budget would continue to grow, he was talking about the Pentagon's core budget, not the extra costs of waging wars in places like Iraq and Afghanistan. When Carter said spending was about to plummet, he was talking mostly about war spending, plus the modest trims the administration proposes on future growth in the non-war budget.

But the contrast between the two statements—are we cutting, or are we growing?—reflected the underlying dilemma of Obama's desires on defense: He wants to have it both ways.

The president has been blunt in arguing that the nation's fiscal problems can't be solved unless military spending is reduced. To that end, he has imposed a cut of $487 billion in the core defense budget over the next 10 years, and threatened to cut more if needed.

But will the budget cuts leave enough, as Obama has promised, to enable the military not only to continue the fight against terrorism but also to increase the U.S. military presence in Asia and to defeat any conceivable adversary that arises?

The president has sought to lay out a global strategy on a shoestring, but it's a very large shoestring; that core budget will still amount to an average of about $560 billion a year for the next 10 years. And while his critics will charge that Obama is imposing radical cuts, most of what is proposed in the Defense Strategy Review, as it's officially named, sounds more like carefully calibrated moderation.

The report says U.S. defense planning should now focus on Asia, especially the growing military power of China. But contrary to some early reports, it doesn't propose diminishing the U.S. commitment to policing the Middle East.

The report says the United States hopes never to fight another long and costly counterinsurgency war like the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan—but it adds that the military should be prepared to fight that way again if it needs to.

And, in a section that provoked some controversy, the report says the U.S. military should no longer be structured so it can fight two ground wars at the same time, something that has been a cornerstone of American defense rhetoric for decades. But it still says the United States should be ready to fight at least a war-and-a-half—one on the ground, the other mostly from the sea and the air.

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta illustrated that concept with a telling example: If war broke out in Korea, he said, the United

See OBAMA'S on Next Page

A look ahead at what could be the new year's biggest international stories

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer*. Readers may write to her at:* Philadelphia Inquirer*, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by e-mail at trubin@phillynews.com.*

The events of 2011—featuring Arab upheavals that no one expected—should serve as a warning against New Year's predictions.

But given our unsettled times, which offer unending grist for a foreign-affairs columnist, I can certainly list the stories I'll be watching in 2012.

The struggle for human dignity, in the Mideast and elsewhere. The outcome of the Arab revolts remains unknown, with bloodshed ongoing and few signs that democracy is budding. Yet underlying the 2011 protests was a deep yearning for dignity by populations that had previously accepted authoritarian rule.

Young Arabs had been made aware by the forces of globalization of their right to better treatment; they were no longer willing to be treated like cattle. This new consciousness has penetrated not just less developed countries such as Egypt or Syria, but also wealthier countries such as Russia, where recent, amazing demonstrations took place against the rule of pseudo-tsar Vladimir Putin.

Even if mass protests don't produce better governance at first, this new awareness can't be reversed. I want to watch where it leads.

Which raises the question: Whither Islamism? "Moderate" Islamists have already topped lists in elections in Tunisia, Egypt, and Morocco. They are poised to take power in Libya, and would do well in Syrian elections if the Assad government fell.

So a big story to watch in 2012 is whether "moderate" Islamists keep their pledges to respect the rights of religious minorities, secularists, and women, and how they relate to hard-line Islamist parties that oppose those rights. I'll also be watching to see whether Islamist parties maintain their stated policy of nonviolence toward their own people and other states, including Israel.

All bets are off if 2012 brings us War in the Gulf. Neither the United States nor Iran—nor Israel—wants such a war, despite sharp disputes over Iran's nuclear program. Yet paranoia in Tehran and fears in Jerusalem could produce 2012's biggest story: an Israeli strike on Iran that further destabilizes the region and drags the United States into the conflict. As retaliation for tough sanctions, Iran is already undermining U.S. interests in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Ah, yes, Afghanistan. There, the story I'll watch is whether Talks with the Taliban produce anything more than a dead end. It has long since become clear that no military victory is possible there, and everyone talks about a political solution. The administration desperately needs political cover for its planned 2014 troop drawdown.

The Taliban has just agreed to open a political office in the small Persian Gulf state of Qatar. Yet it's unclear whether they want reconciliation or only a boost toward retaking control of the country. Many Afghans believe the Taliban will use talks to buy time until the Americans leave.

And no talks can succeed without support from Pakistan, which gives haven and support to most of the Taliban leaders. Yet relations between Pakistan and the United States have never been worse.

Which brings me to the story that really gives me shivers: Will Pakistan implode in 2012? The Pakistani military aids and abets the most vicious Afghan and Pakistani Islamist militants because they are seen as a weapon against India.

Yet these same militants are destroying the social fabric of Pakistan, a country with more than 100 nuclear weapons. They threaten Afghanistan, they seriously threaten U.S. interests, and they train terrorists to attack our homeland. Most terrifying, they have penetrated Pakistan's military and society. Meantime, the military snarls at U.S. officials and deludes itself that China can take America's place as its closest ally.

And so, we come to China, which always provides great stories. The Pentagon is shifting its focus to Asia to counter China's rising influence. But I'm more interested in China's internal battles; those will determine whether a rising China is a superpower with which we can coexist peacefully.

In the run-up to a leadership transition in 2012, China has been cracking down on dissidents. Even so, protests have erupted all over the country against local officials who seize peasants' land illegally and sell it to developers for big bucks.

I'm riveted by stories like that of Wukan village, which rose up last year against such crooked officials. Here's the best part: The up-and-coming Communist party secretary of the key southern Guangdong province, Wang Yang, chose to listen to the villagers' complaints rather than send police to crush them. This indicates the ongoing internal party debate over whether more political openness would strengthen—or harm—China. So far would-be reformers have been thwarted, but they're still fighting. In 2012, I want to follow the efforts of Chinese who try to establish rule of law.

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Is there hope for brighter tomorrows?

By JOHN DELROSARIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

DelRosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

Are there opportunities for brighter tomorrows?

Maybe.

But hope being our only bridge to the future, perhaps there's a glimmer of it that requires a bit more focus. It begins with a critical review of the self.

With severely anemic economic conditions at home, I recall President Reagan's inaugural address to this day when he encouraged the multitude to reclaim the future of our country. If he were addressing the CNMI today, he would have repeated the same words: "Our country needs a new set of leadership to lead us into an uncertain future fraught with both challenges and opportunities. May I remind you that 'status quo' is Latin for 'the mess we are in.' A recession is when your neighbor loses his job. A depression is when you lose yours." Well, if I may borrow and change his words for relevancy to say that recovery on the islands is when Covenant and Republicans here lose theirs.

Regarding resolute self-evaluation, said he, "I'm not taking your time to ask you to trust me or any leader. Instead, I ask you to trust yourself. That is what America is all about. It's the power of millions of people like you who will determine what will make America great again."

How true the words of wisdom from President Reagan that still ring and reverberate loudly across the country, echoing in the distant trade winds of these isles. If we want brighter tomorrows, it begins with trust in our individual self and resolute confidence to revive and ring in prosperity once more. Remember, it begins with trust and confidence in the self. We can do it beginning this midterm election.

■ ■ ■

The music will stop or pause

By June of this year, the night music from all camps would stop as each group uses its musical chairs to eliminate candidates who have outlived their welcome in the living rooms across these isles. It's the process of elimination to determine slates.

Pundits and strategists in spin rooms will be awash in losers' arguments trying to appease bruised ego with the inscription "also-ran". But then no one could cash tickets on the "also-ran" bunch out in voting booths or anywhere else. By then, we won't have to listen to pundits or doom-crying candidates of desperation. That would be old, redundant material, only good for personal diaries or a new category, "written off."

The mood then shifts to politics for the grown-ups. Rummaging begins in filthy baggage, endless wailing of funeral chants from all over, minions from the hill preparing for a full-blown redundancy of tired and failed promises, vicious throwback of words or dry as desert grass slogans that have hollowed out over the last five years. Governance has an indelible memory of the elected elite's apathy that let to familial privation—vicious abject poverty.

We would meet party heads and candidates equipped and adorned with a gift for synthetic eloquence and the ability to fake sincerity. These guys would do better strumming a beaten-up ukulele—sweet, pretty, never mind originality.

Some would try to figure out how best to navigate their election or re-election. It may mean voluntarily swallowing coconut oil potion from grandma. Awful as it may taste, it is gulped without question because the old lady said, "it's good for you."

The pile of materials available to nail incumbents is plenty. It includes the unemployed, underemployed, victims of draconian austerity measures, specifically the 25 percent reduction of the only family income; the subsequent loss of the first family home and the displacement of families from joblessness; and the impending loss of income for over 3,000 retirees.

There's the forced relocation of more than 2,000 families elsewhere in search of greener pasture given the loss of real opportunities at home; non-issuance of scholarship on a timely basis; high utility cost that has forced investors to think with their feet and luggage, moving elsewhere bringing with them some $5 billion to $7 billion in taxable income; restrictive labor policies and discriminatory land policy, among others. These are the core disincentives that would keep investors away for a long time.

The loss of income and jobs are hardest especially if it is the only family income. Imagine the effect when recession moves into the recovery period. The recovery period would be harder, requiring redefining the term once more to bring forth its real, not virtual meaning.

■ ■ ■

Lessons from history

Populist elections allow non-qualified people to partake in the serious business of policymaking. We could only blame ourselves for this mess. We failed to elect the truly qualified ones. This mess was fueled by newcomers that had the gall to accept the new trophy as neophytes in a vocation they've acquired by circumstance. Our juvenile attitude needs major overhaul beginning this midterm election.

There are major policy issues that require thorough research and preparation. It includes putting a plan together and combining the various components into a single plan, including farming, investments, labor requirements, redefinition of the syllabus of education from high school to NMC, among others. Research materials will require lots of reading to understand with clarity the charted maps of socio-economic revival.

■ ■ ■

We brandish persnickety snobbishness and double it up with unreasoned fear in our relationship with the feds across the sea. At home, a new culture of facelessness has emerged in the obvious disconnect between titular heads and legislators with the simple folks in the villages. Didn't the elected elite hail from the "consent of the governed"? *A'saina!*

Letters to the Editor

Wake up!

This letter is not about Article 12. Whether by vote of indigenous only or the entire voting populace it will be decided in the polling place. I'm old enough so that a 50-year lease will see me through the end of my days.

This is in response to Keith Brooks' assertion that "we are only guests on this island." I don't know how many times I've heard that over the years. Such a notion is absurd. I have worked here for 14 years, others from the mainland much longer. We are no one's guests. We set our own tables and can complain about the food if we choose to do so.

Keith, you say that you were indoctrinated into a Brahmin-style culture in Maine. Well, I guess the brainwashing worked because you seem willing to accept your inability to involve yourself in the local political process. Wake up! No one has the luxury of waiting three or four generations to begin to participate. This is not a foreign country in Asia. The CNMI is part of the United States. Those born here are U.S. citizens. We are governed by laws patterned after those in the United States. We are subject to the ultimate legal authority of the U.S. Supreme Court.

You say that, "Engaging in legal action only causes animosity, hatred and anger toward those who are pushing for that change." While that may be true for a small portion of the indigenous population, it is based primarily on fear of change. The same was true when individual States used laws to enforce racial bias by denying the vote to people of African and Chinese ancestry, by prohibiting interracial marriage, and enforcing segregation. It certainly made people angry when they were challenged in court. Change is inevitable. Sometimes it comes quietly and other times kicking and screaming.

You also say that, "By forcing the locals to sell to outsiders you are telling them you want to take away the last piece of their culture that they hold dear." No one is forcing anyone to sell anything. It is a matter of choice. Anyone who does not want to sell their land may certainly decline to do so. Believe me, there are plenty of indigenous people who think that the restrictions on alienation of real property should be eliminated. The restriction on alienation is a remnant of the Trust Territories concept that the "islanders" are not mature enough to know what is good for them.

Finally, you say, "[I]f you don't like some of the laws on the island a plane is always available to take you home…" How childish! If you don't like the way the game is going, run away? Everyone who knows me well also knows that John Davis and I have butted heads on more than one occasion. He is strong-willed and I dare say stubborn but he has strength of conviction. He may or may not prevail in his lawsuit but he certainly has the right to bring it. That is just one of the things that teachers from the mainland (guests?) teach the students of the island. It is also something that the attorney general from the mainland (guest?) will have to defend. If all this gives you a headache you can visit a doctor from the mainland (guest?) at CHC.

Barry Hirshbein
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

Simple enough

Mr. Brooks, your education notwithstanding, what part of the Constitution of the United States of America do you actually understand? The serious issues regarding Article 12 are *very* simple. The CNMI *is* part of America and in America the 14th and 15th Amendments to the Constitution state:

- 14th defines citizenship: contains the privileges and immunities clause, the due process clause, the equal protection clause and deals with post-Civil War issues. (This defines who is considered a citizen).
- The 15th prohibits the denial of suffrage based on race, color, or previous condition of servitude (This is self-explanatory).

So, with the CNMI being part of America, it means American citizens can own land and not be discriminated against that ownership based on race, color, or creed. Article 12 is based *entirely* on race. If this was Thailand or anywhere else, no big deal. But if living in America means I can own American soil, then that law applies to the CNMI as well. If a person of Northern Marianas-descent can go to the mainland and own land, why is it perceived to be unfair that I, as a fellow citizen, would want to own land where my children were born, so I can pass said land to them in my inheritance?

Paul Beebe
Spokane, Washington

OBAMA'S

From Page 10

States could fight on the ground; and if Iran chose the same moment to block the Strait of Hormuz, U.S. forces would "deal with those threats" some other way.

But even abandoning the two-war doctrine wasn't a radical step. In fact, the doctrine has long been mostly a fiction—as we learned in 2003, when we couldn't fight a medium-sized war in Iraq without taking troops away from Afghanistan.

In any case, the strategy says, decisions must also be "reversible." The Army and Marine Corps will shrink, for example, but the Pentagon will maintain a plan for rebuilding them quickly if a future president decides to wage two wars after all.

That was a key factor that helped win a measured endorsement from the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the generals and admirals who run the armed forces.

"It's not perfect," said Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs. "There will be people who think it goes too far. Others will say it didn't go nearly far enough. That probably makes it about right for today."

That won't make it immune from sniping in an election year, though.

The two leading Republican candidates for president, Mitt Romney and Rick Santorum, immediately denounced Obama's proposal and reiterated their calls for significant increases in defense spending over the next 10 years.

But the issue divides the Republican Party between two kinds of hawks: defense hawks and budget hawks. A few Republicans, such as Sen. Tom Coburn of Oklahoma, have called for even deeper cuts in defense spending than Obama has dared propose. And even Arizona Sen. John McCain, who lost the presidential election to Obama in 2008, has said he accepts the premise that defense spending must be trimmed; McCain said he would study the president's plan "carefully and thoroughly" before issuing any critique.

Public opinion polls, on the other hand, are less ambiguous: Most Americans oppose deep cuts in defense spending, but they divide on partisan lines. The Democrats and independents whose votes Obama needs for reelection are likely to applaud the careful cuts he has proposed.

Unveiling a major shift in defense policy in an election year can be perilous for any president, especially a Democrat. But Obama's proposal was anything but radical. It formalized decisions that were already underway—and already widely accepted by the military leadership. It bowed, as it had to, to the arithmetic of the federal budget. But it sought to preserve the global reach of the U.S. military—even in a time of austerity.

Obama will be criticized over the coming weeks by Republican legislators for proposing cuts they consider too deep. But over time, the question will more likely be whether the president, acting in this election year, cut deeply enough.

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 25 mph.	Mostly sunny and breezy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

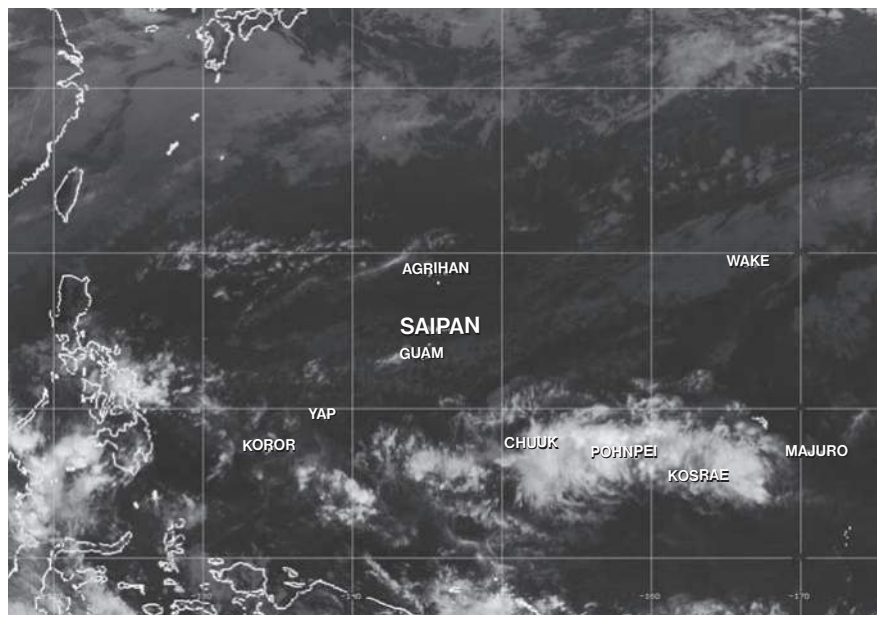
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲83	▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲86	▼78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼79
Majuro	Showers	▲84	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼67
Beijing	Sunny	▲34	▼12
Hong Kong	Showers	▲63	▼60
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼68
London	Partly Cloudy	▲51	▼46
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲69	▼47
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲84	▼78
Melbourne	Showers	▲66	▼56
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼66
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲49	▼31
Osaka	Windy	▲46	▼34
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲47	▼38
Pusan	Sunny	▲37	▼23
Rome	Sunny	▲58	▼37
Salem	Sunny	▲43	▼30
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲61	▼44
Seoul	Sunny	▲26	▼14
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲49	▼32
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲54	▼36

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 23N180 to 21N175E then continues as a shear line over Wake Island and Guam to beyond 10N130E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are found along and up to 225 miles north of this boundary. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae within 150 miles of a line from 6N152E to 8N160E to 6N167E. Widely scattered showers are found farther west southwest of Yap and Koror within 150 miles of a line from 4N139E to 7N147E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:55 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
9:48 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
3:27 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
8:23 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:46 AM	6:03 PM
Thursday	6:46 AM	6:04 PM
Friday	6:46 AM	6:04 PM
Saturday	6:46 AM	6:05 PM
Sunday	6:47 AM	6:06 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:53 PM	7:56 AM
Thursday	8:49 PM	8:40 AM
Friday	9:44 PM	9:24 AM
Saturday	10:39 PM	10:06 AM
Sunday	11:36 PM	10:50 AM

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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
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DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05062	2:10am	2:40am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	4:15am	5:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
C05074	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05076	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	6:50pm	7:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	7:00pm	7:50pm	3, 6
C05072	9:55pm	10:45pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05072	10:05pm	10:55pm	3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL285	6:35am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:25pm	7:15pm	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
OZ608	3:35am	7:05am	4, 7
DL581	4:10am	7:30am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05070/191	4:35am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:25pm	Daily via NRT
C05068/183	8:25am	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05068/183	8:25am	9:40pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C05076/193	3:10pm	11:00pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN
C05072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
C05072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05076/147	3:10pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:50pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	5:15am	5:45am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
C05062	3:10am	3:45am	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
C05062	2:10am	3:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05071	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C05073	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05075	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:30pm	6:20pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:40pm	6:30pm	3, 6
C05079	8:35pm	9:25pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05079	8:45pm	9:35pm	3, 6
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
DL286	7:40pm	12:20am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
DL580	10:10pm	2:55am+1	4, 7
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT
C0190/5077	10:55am	6:30pm	3, 6 via GUM
C0190/5079	10:55am	9:35pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0192/5071	10:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C0184/5071	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
C0184/5071	11:59pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0180/5071	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

GM likely to recapture global auto sales lead

AP
General Motors North American Vice President Mark Reuss debuts the 2013 Cadillac ATS prior to the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Sunday, Jan. 8, 2012.

DETROIT (AP)—General Motors Co. is on track to retake the title of world's top-selling automaker, riding strong sales in the U.S. and China to beat Volkswagen and Toyota.

GM, which lost the crown to Toyota in 2008 after holding it for more than seven decades, won't release global sales numbers until later this month, but it's on pace to finish 2011 at around 9 million cars and trucks, at least 800,000 more than its German and Japanese rivals.

Winning the global sales crown doesn't mean much to a company's bottom line, but for GM, it's an example of just how far the company has come since it nearly collapsed in financial ruin back in 2009. That year, the company sold only 7.5 million vehicles. GM executives have consistently said they're more focused on making money than outselling Toyota or Volkswagen. But it does boost employee morale and gives bragging rights to the winner.

Volkswagen AG on Monday said it sold a record 8.156 million vehicles last year, a 14 percent rise over 2010. The company expects a tough 2012, though. Toyota, whose production suffered from the tsunami and Fukushima nuclear disaster, had earlier reported sales of 7.9 million vehicles in 2011.

GM, meanwhile, sold almost 7 million vehicles worldwide in the first three quarters and is expected to reach around 9 million for 2011.

At GM, the company's recent new products are far more appealing than the company's offerings in past years when Toyota took the crown away, says Jeff Schuster, senior vice president of forecasting for LMC Automotive, an industry consulting company in Troy, Michigan.

Other manufacturers have passed Toyota partly because its car production was paralyzed by Japan's earthquake and nuclear disaster last year. But rivals also developed stylish vehicles that are drawing more customers.

"They're not pushing their designs as much as others in terms of new looks and feel," Schuster says of Toyota. "The market has changed."

Volkswagen met its aggressive sales goals in the U.S. and throughout the world, and its products also have made it a strong global competitor, Schuster says.

In the U.S., VW sales rose 26 percent last year to top 324,000 vehicles, boosted by a new Jetta compact sedan and the Passat midsize sedan. That surpassed its goal of 300,000.

Schuster expects a tighter race for the global sales crown next year with Toyota recovering from Japan's disasters and the Nissan-Renault venture challenging the leaders.

Volkswagen, whose brands include Audi, Skoda and Seat, has a goal of producing 10 million vehicles per year and passing Toyota and GM to become the world's biggest automaker by 2018.

Volkswagen's top sales and marketing executive, Christian Klingler, says that "all the company's brands have shown increases in difficult conditions on volatile markets" and called the 2011 figures "an outstanding result."

But he added that the coming year will be demanding. "In 2012 the risks are increasing above all on European markets."

The 17 countries that use the euro are struggling with a financial crisis over too much government debt. Fears that a country may default and damage the banking system have weighed on the wider economy and many think the eurozone economy may have shrunk in the last three months of 2011.

But the 2011 figures underlined a strong year for German automakers, who have profited from strong sales and profits in emerging markets, especially China. Volkswagen, Daimler AG's Mercedes-Benz, BMW, and Porsche all recorded record vehicle sales for the year.

Luxury carmaker BMW AG said Monday that it sold a record 1.67 million vehicles under its BMW, Mini and Rolls-Royce brands thanks to a 14.2 percent increase over 2010.

Calm on Wall Street ahead of corporate earnings

By DANIEL WAGNER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stocks drifted higher Monday in a fourth consecutive listless session. Traders waited for corporate financial results to start rolling in so they could look for clues about the economy.

In the unofficial kickoff to earnings season, Alcoa, considered an economic bellwether because so many companies use its products, said it lost $34 million from October through December because of lower demand for aluminum.

The loss amounted to 3 cents per share. Analysts surveyed by FactSet, a provider of financial data, had expected a loss of 2 cents per share. Alcoa said revenue was $6 billion, compared with an estimate of $5.7 billion.

The results were released after the market closed for the day. Alcoa stock finished up 2.9 percent, the biggest gain of the 30 companies in the Dow Jones industrial average. It was little changed in after-hours trading.

The Dow closed up 32.77 points, or 0.3 percent, at 12,392.69. The broader Standard & Poor's 500 index gained 2.89 points, or 0.2 percent, to 1,280.70. The Nasdaq composite index rose 2.34, or 0.1 percent, to 2,676.56.

Stock trading has been subdued in recent days. The Dow's high and low were only 75 points apart Monday. In all of 2011, trading was that narrow on only 26 days. In the final five months, the average daily swing was 249 points.

The broader market has been calm, too. The S&P rose 19 points Jan. 3, the first trading day of the year, but has risen or fallen by less than four points each of the following four days.

Volume was light Monday, as it has been all but one trading day this year, at 3.28 billion shares. Last year, about 4.3 billion shares changed hands on an average day.

Other markets were fairly quiet. The yield on the 10-year U.S. Treasury note fell to 1.96 percent from 1.97 percent Friday.

Analysts think profit growth slowed for U.S. multinational companies from October through December because of weaker demand overseas. Europe is on the brink of recession, and China's explosive economy is cooling.

Quarterly profits for S&P 500 companies will probably only grow at half the rate of the previous three quarters, said Sam Stovall, chief equity strategist at S&P's Capital IQ. The companies generate about half their revenue overseas, he said.

The U.S. is in a "half-speed recovery, and that probably isn't enough to offset the weakness in Europe and Asia," Stovall said.

Many analysts expect materials companies such as Alcoa to suffer as developing nations expand more slowly. Government-funded construction booms had driven up prices for metals and other basic products.

Consumer borrowing surges as economy improves

WASHINGTON (AP)—Americans are feeling confident enough in the economy to go back to a time-honored tradition—taking on a little extra debt.

Consumer borrowing surged in November by $20.4 billion, the Federal Reserve said Monday. It was the third straight increase and the largest monthly gain in a decade.

The jump in borrowing was largely because people took out more loans to buy cars and swiped their credit cards frequently to purchase holiday gifts.

In November, total consumer borrowing rose to seasonally adjusted $2.48 trillion. That's nearly at pre-recession levels and up from a post-recession low point of $2.39 trillion reached in September 2010. Borrowing had tumbled for more than two years during and immediately after the recession.

Since then, consumers have increased their borrowing in 13 of the past 14 months. Americans are taking on more debt after seeing the unemployment rate drop and the economy improve, albeit modestly. Many are also leaning on their credit cards and loans to make up for wages that haven't kept pace with inflation this year.

Holiday sales were solid in November, and the U.S. auto industry had its two best sales months for the year in November and December. The Fed's credit report appeared to reflect those sales.

The category that measures credit card debt rose in November by $5.6 billion, the most since March 2008. The gauge that tracks auto loans and student loans increased $14.8 billion, nearly matching July's gain that was the biggest since February 2005.

Sung Won Sohn, an economics professor at the Martin Smith School of Business at California State University, said many consumers were likely persuaded by incentives that retailers and auto dealers offered to boost sales.

Still, Paul Edelstein, director of financial economics at IHS Global Insight, expressed concern that consumers may have relied on their credit cards to finance holiday purchases.

The rise in borrowing comes as many consumers are seeing little to no growth in their paychecks. Inflation-adjusted, after-tax incomes shrank by nearly 2 percent in the July-September period.

To make up the difference, many consumers have reduced the amount they save. The savings rate fell in November to 3.5 percent—the lowest level since the recession began. The savings rate jumped in 2008 to 5 percent and stayed above that level until early last year.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Olympus sues executives for damages in cover-up

TOKYO (AP)—Olympus Corp. said Tuesday it has sued 19 former and current executives for damages the Japanese camera and medical equipment maker says it has suffered over a massive cover-up of investment losses. The lawsuit, filed Sunday in Tokyo District Court, targets former CEO Tsuyoshi Kikukawa, current President Shuichi Takayama and 17 other executives that the company says participated in or knew about the fraudulent activity. The scheme—which first came to light after former President Michael Woodford blew the whistle—has raised serious questions about corporate governance in Japan, and whether major companies are complying adequately with global standards.

Apple CEO Tim Cook could top pay list in 2011

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Tim Cook could well end up being the highest paid CEO in America in 2011, after Apple Inc. granted him a million restricted stock units last August for taking the reins shortly before co-founder Steve Jobs died. An Associated Press review of a securities filing shows Cook's pay package was valued at $378 million. The vast majority came in a grant of a million restricted stock units worth $376 million at the time. Half of the stock units will vest in August 2016, the other half in August 2021. His salary and performance bonus, about $900,000 each, made up much of the rest. He also made $16,520 from company contributions to a 401(k) retirement account and company-paid life insurance premiums.

AT&T to bring out Nokia phone with Windows

LAS VEGAS (AP)—AT&T on Monday said it will sell a Nokia smartphone running Microsoft's Windows Phone software. The device represents Nokia and Microsoft's best chance yet to break Apple and Google's hold on the U.S. smartphone market, the world's most lucrative. Nokia Corp. CEO Stephen Elop joined Microsoft Corp. CEO Steve Ballmer in unveiling the phone a press event in Las Vegas ahead of the International Consumer Electronics Show. The presence of both CEOs was a sign of the importance the companies place on the device. The phone, the Lumia 900, will use AT&T Inc.'s new "LTE" wireless data network, for faster downloads. It's a slab-like touch-screen phone in the vein of Apple Inc.'s iPhone. The companies said it will be available "in coming months." They didn't reveal the price.

Nation

US condemns Iranian death sentence for American

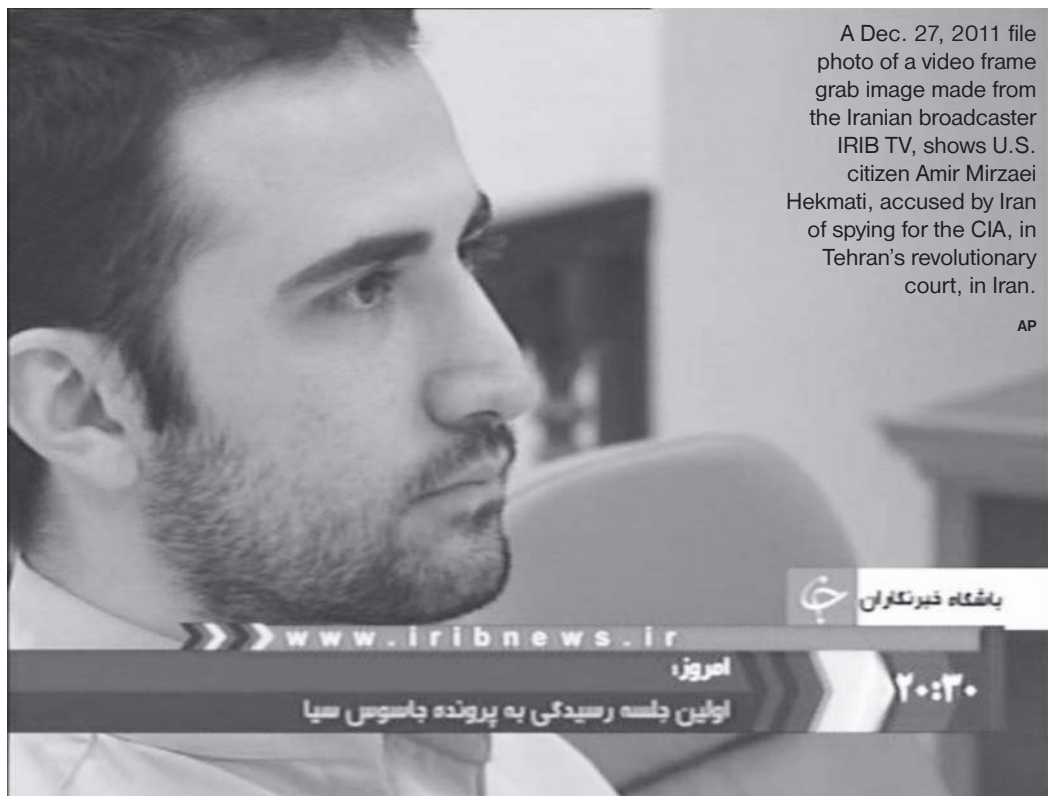
WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration Monday rejected Iran's charge that a young Iranian-American man used a family trip to Iran as cover for espionage, after the Tehran government issued the first death penalty against a U.S. citizen since the Islamic Revolution 33 years ago. The U.S. suggested the decision was a political ploy.

In a case that surely will heighten tensions with Tehran, Iran charged Amir Mirzaei Hekmati with receiving special training and serving at U.S. military bases in Iraq and Afghanistan before traveling to Iran on an intelligence mission. A court convicted him of belonging to the CIA and trying to incriminate Iran for involvement in terrorism, according to a state radio report Monday.

The United States denied the accusations. The State Department called them a "complete fabrication" and White House spokesman Tommy Vietor added that "allegations that Mr. Hekmati either worked for or was sent to Iran by the CIA are false."

"The Iranian regime has a history of falsely accusing people of being spies, of eliciting forced confessions and of holding innocent Americans for political reasons," Vietor said in a statement.

The case sheds light on the legal but risky travel of U.S. citizens to Iran, common among many first-generation and second-generation Iranian-Americans but a practice largely hidden to the larger American populace. Thousands are believed to make the trip each year, though the State Department doesn't have firm figures because people must travel through third countries and most dual nationals enter the Islamic republic using Iranian passports.



A Dec. 27, 2011 file photo of a video frame grab image made from the Iranian broadcaster IRIB TV, shows U.S. citizen Amir Mirzaei Hekmati, accused by Iran of spying for the CIA, in Tehran's revolutionary court, in Iran.

AP

But the State Department has warned that U.S.-Iranian citizens aren't necessarily any safer than others from the threat of arbitrary arrest. Spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said the U.S. has issued a series of travel warnings for Americans, with specific references to those holding both U.S. and Iranian citizenship.

"We urge Iranian-Americans to take particular care," Nuland told reporters. Because Iranian authorities don't recognize dual citizenship, they treat any such people arrested as they would other Iranians. The latest U.S. travel warning says Iranian-Americans face "the risk of being targeted" by Tehran and notes that "Iranian authorities have detained and harassed U.S. citizens of Iranian origin."

Hekmati, 28, is a former military translator who was born in Arizona and graduated from high school in Michigan. His family is of Iranian origin, and Hekmati claims dual citizenship. His father, Ali, a professor at a community college in Flint, Mich., has said his son was visiting his grandmothers in Iran.

America hits the brakes on health care spending

WASHINGTON (AP)—Is health-care relief finally in sight? Health spending stabilized as a share of the nation's economy in 2010 after two back-to-back years of historically low growth, the government reported Monday.

Experts debated whether it's a fleeting consequence of the sluggish economy, or a real sign that cost controls by private employers and government at all levels are starting to work.

The answers will be vital for Medicare's sustainability, as well as for workplace coverage.

U.S. health care spending grew by 3.9 percent in 2010, reaching $2.6 trillion, according to the report by the Health and Human Services department.

That's an average of $8,402 per person—far more than any other economically advanced country.

Still, the increases for 2010 and 2009 were the lowest measured in 51 years. And health care as a share of the economy leveled off at 17.9 percent, the first time in a decade there's been no growth.

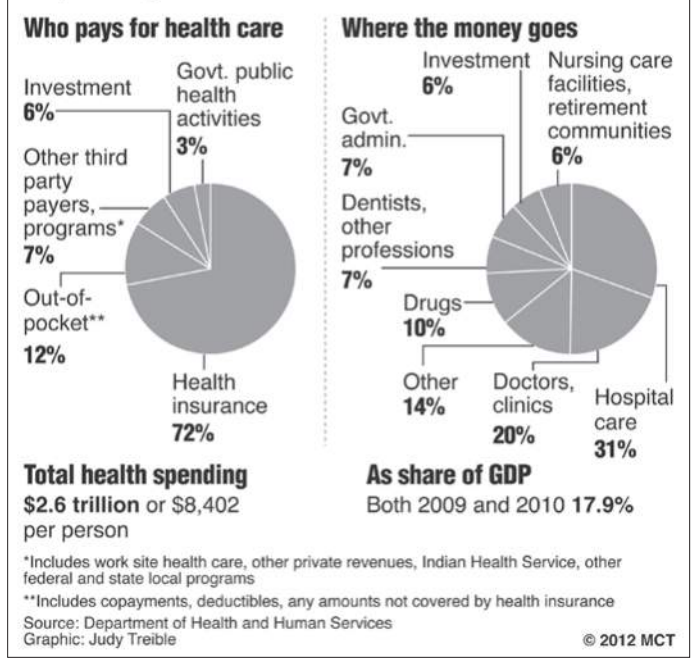
The main reason for the slowdown was that Americans were more frugal in their use of health care, from postponing elective surgery to using generic drugs and thinking twice about that late-night visit to the emergency room.

"Although medical goods and services are generally viewed as necessities, the latest recession has had a dramatic effect on their utilization," said the report published in the journal Health Affairs. "Though the recession officially ended in 2009, its impact on the health care sector appears to have continued into 2010."

Independent economists issued conflicting assessments.

"I think it could signal slower growth in the future," said Ken Thorpe, professor of health policy at Emory University in Atlanta. "Any discussion about reducing the deficit is going to focus on how we reduce the growth in health-care costs. And employers are adopting more effective tools to keep putting downward pressure on health-care cost increases."

But his counterpart Len Nichols at George Mason University in Virginia said people are getting less medical care because too many have lost jobs and insurance, and they just can't afford to pay.


U.S. health care spending
The recession slowed health spending in 2010 as it did the previous year. A look at the nation's health care dollar:
Who pays for health care
Investment 6%
Govt. public health activities 3%
Other third party payers, programs* 7%
Out-of-pocket** 12%
Health insurance 72%
Where the money goes
Investment 6%
Nursing care facilities, retirement communities 6%
Govt. admin. 7%
Dentists, other professions 7%
Drugs 10%
Other 14%
Doctors, clinics 20%
Hospital care 31%
Total health spending
$2.6 trillion or $8,402 per person
As share of GDP
Both 2009 and 2010 17.9%
*Includes work site health care, other private revenues, Indian Health Service, other federal and state local programs
**Includes copayments, deductibles, any amounts not covered by health insurance
Source: Department of Health and Human Services
Graphic: Judy Treible
© 2012 MCT

Earlier than expected, Daley out as chief of staff

WASHINGTON (AP)—In a jolt to the White House, President Barack Obama announced Monday that chief of staff William Daley was quitting and heading home, capping a short and rocky tenure that had been expected to last until Election Day. Obama budget chief Jack Lew, a figure long familiar with Washington's ways, will take over one of the most consuming jobs in America.

Daley's run as Obama's chief manager and gatekeeper lasted only a year. It was filled with consequential moments for the White House, like the killing of al-Qaida terrorist leader Osama bin Laden, but also stumbles with Congress and grumbles that Daley was not the right choice to coordinate an intense operation of ideas, offices and egos.

Obama said he reluctantly accepted the news and at first refused to accept Daley's post-holidays resignation letter last week.

Daley did not waver, expressing to his boss a desire to get back to his family in Chicago, where Daleys have dominated city politics for decades. But he offered no explanation on Monday about what accelerated his decision; he had committed to Obama that he would stay on through the election.

It apparently became clear that the fit was no longer working for either side. Senior adviser Pete Rouse had already taken on more of the day-to-day management.

Stepping in is the mild-mannered Lew, who began his career on Capitol Hill, where he spent nearly a decade as principal domestic policy adviser to the late House Speaker Tip O'Neill. Lew, 56, has worked for Obama as a deputy secretary of state before becoming budget director, the same position he held in the Clinton administration.

Daley had been brought in for his political savvy, business ties and experience as a commerce secretary. Yet as an outsider, he did not personally know Obama well, meaning he was forced to figure out the president and run his operation simultaneously. He did not seem to mesh as the one, more than anyone, charged with ensuring a smooth operation.

The president delivered the other side of the story, describing Daley as highly influential and effective.

White House officials said that to the degree Daley gets blame for any missteps, he also deserves credit for his work during a remarkably demanding year that ended on a high for Obama, with a political victory over House Republicans in getting a payroll tax cut extended.

"No one in my administration has had to make more important decisions more quickly than Bill. And that's why I think this decision was difficult for me," Obama said in a State Dining Room that was nearly empty except for the assembled media.

ACROSS THE NATION

Police: Ark. woman, 73, forced to try bank robbery

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. (AP)—Authorities were searching Monday for man suspected of holding a 73-year-old woman and her husband hostage at their home, then forcing her to try to rob a bank with what she thought was a bomb strapped to her ankle. The woman, Betty Davis, told employees at the bank in Fayetteville about the device, and authorities were able to safely evacuate the building on Monday before a bomb squad could remove it from Davis' leg, police said. Authorities were testing the device to see if it really was dangerous. Davis told police that a man had been holding her and her husband captive in their Washington County home, and sheriff's deputies dispatched there found her husband tied up but unharmed. Authorities didn't release Davis' husband's name.

Marine accused of losing control in war crime

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. (AP)—A Marine sergeant charged in the biggest criminal case against U.S. troops in the Iraq war made a series of fatal assumptions and lost control of himself when he and his squad killed 24 Iraqis, including unarmed women and children, a military prosecutor said Monday. Maj. Nicholas Gannon made the accusations to a jury of battle-hardened Marines hearing the case against Staff Sgt. Frank Wuterich more than six years after the squad committed the killings in the town of Haditha. "The evidence will show that none of the victims were a threat," Gannon told jurors in his opening statement.

FAA says pilots can guide whooping cranes

WASHINGTON (AP)—The pilots of the bird-like aircraft that has been leading nine young whooping cranes to their winter home in Florida have been granted a special exemption by federal regulators to continue their journey. The Federal Aviation Administration has provided a one-time waiver to Operation Migration, a conservation organization trying to re-establish an Eastern flyway for whooping cranes by teaching young birds how to make the flight. Operation Migration ran into trouble with the FAA because it pays salaries to pilots. FAA regulations say sport planes—a category that sometimes includes aircraft of exotic design—can only be flown for personal use.

Asia

Myanmar's Suu Kyi confirms run for parliament seat

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi confirmed that she will run for a seat in parliament, her party said Tuesday, a move that will infuse April by-elections with legitimacy, star power and historic significance.

Suu Kyi said last year that she would run for parliament but had appeared to backtrack since then. A victory would give the Nobel Peace Prize winner and longtime political prisoner a voice in parliament for the first time in her decades-long role as the country's opposition leader.

She was under house arrest during November 2010 elections, which were boycotted by her National League for Democracy Party in part because she was barred from participating. The elections, Myanmar's first in 20 years, replaced a ruling military junta with a government that remains strongly linked to the military but has taken steps toward easing decades of repression.

Suu Kyi's decision to personally contest the April polls is the latest vote of confidence for government reforms that include the legalization of labor unions, increasing press freedom and opening a dialogue with Suu Kyi herself.

Party spokesman Nyan Win said Tuesday that Suu Kyi announced during a party meeting on Monday that she would seek a parliamentary seat in the Yangon suburb of Kawhmu. Yangon is Myanmar's largest city and Suu Kyi's hometown. As recently as last week, Suu Kyi declined to confirm whether she would personally contest a seat, telling The Associated Press in an interview that her decision would be announced later this month. She also expressed cautious optimism about the government's reforms.

AP

Myanmar democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi claps hands during a ceremony for a new signboard of her National League for Democracy party's headquarters in Yangon, Myanmar, Monday, Jan. 9, 2012.

"I think there are obstacles, and there are some dangers that we have to look out for," Suu Kyi said. "I am concerned about how much support there is in the military for changes."

Even if Suu Kyi's party wins all 48 seats to be contested April 1, it will have minimal power. Most of the seats were vacated by lawmakers who became Cabinet ministers after the first parliamentary session last January.

The military is guaranteed 110 seats in the 440-seat lower house and 56 seats in the 224-seat upper house, and the main pro-military party holds 80 percent of the remaining 498 elected seats.

Suu Kyi's party won a sweeping victory in the 1990 general election but the junta refused to honor the results. The military regime kept Suu Kyi under house arrest on-and-off for 15 years, hoping to snuff out her popularity. Despite never having held elected office, she became Myanmar's most recognizable face and an icon for the country's pro-democracy movement.

Countries that imposed sanctions on Myanmar under the previous military government have taken at least tentative steps to improve relations. In November, Hillary Rodham Clinton because the first U.S. secretary of state to visit the country in more than 50 years, and on Monday, Australia became the first country to ease sanctions against Myanmar's ruling elite.

Manila alert lifted as parade ends without terrorist attack

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines lifted a terrorist alert in the capital Tuesday after millions of Roman Catholic devotees ended a 22-hour parade of a Christ statue that authorities feared was a tempting target for Muslim extremists.

Authorities had deployed a massive police cordon after the president warned over the weekend that terrorists might target the raucous annual procession. After the parade ended, they declared the event a success and lifted the security alert in Manila.

The government did not have specific intelligence on a terrorist plot. Still, about 15,000 policemen, backed by hundreds of army troops, secured the three-mile (five-kilometer) procession route for the charred wooden Black Nazarene statue from seaside Rizal Park to a popular church in Manila's congested Quiapo district.

Air force helicopters stood by and cellphone service was blocked in procession areas to prevent its use to trigger bombs. Despite the president's warning, huge crowds of devotees wearing maroon shirts surged near the statue, believed to have healing powers.

Devotees waving handkerchiefs and towels let out shouts of "Viva!" as the statue was finally brought inside the church at the end of the grueling procession.

The Philippine Red Cross said more than 500 devotees were treated for minor injuries, exhaustion or dehydration.

President Benigno Aquino III announced at a hastily called news conference Sunday that several terrorists had been reported in Manila with plans to disrupt the procession, but that the threat was not high enough to cancel the event and that police would work to keep it safe.

Aquino's warning sparked one of the most elaborate security deployments for an event in the capital in recent years.

Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin said the threat, involving possible bombings by two groups of Muslim militants from the country's volatile south, prompted police to raid several suspected terrorist hideouts in the Manila area, but without any results.

There were suspicions that attackers might come from two radical Muslim groups, including the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf, which is on a U.S. list of terrorist organizations for deadly bombings, kidnappings and beheadings.

"I agree with the assessment of the Manila police district that it was a success, but a bit too long," Chairman Francis Tolentino of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority said Tuesday.

The procession was delayed for hours because the wheels of the carriage carrying the statue broke.

Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim said the government's warning may have helped kept the event peaceful.

NKorean TV shows young Kim threatening war in 2009

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea's new leader vowed in 2009 to wage war if the country's enemies shot down its long-range rocket, footage aired on state television showed Sunday in the first official word of his role in military operations before his father's death.

The documentary is the second in a week seeking to highlight Kim Jong Un's experience in leading North Korea's 1.2 million-strong military and was aimed at showing that he was in charge of the armed forces long before his father, former leader Kim Jong Il, died of a heart attack last month.

The son, who is in his late 20s, has moved swiftly into the role of "supreme leader" of the people, the ruling Workers' Party and the military despite questions abroad about how easily he could assume power with only a few years of grooming behind him. Kim Jong Il, in contrast, had 20 years of training when his father, North Korea founder Kim Il Sung, died of a heart attack in 1994.

Where a North Korea under Kim Jong Un is headed is deemed crucial because the country is locked in a long-running standoff over its nuclear ambitions and is grappling with chronic food shortages. North Korea has tested two atomic devices and is believed to be working toward mounting a bomb on a missile capable of reaching the U.S.

AP

In this undated image made from KRT video, North Korea's new young leader Kim Jong Un appears from a military vehicle at an undisclosed place in North Korea, aired Sunday, Jan. 8, 2012.

After years of acrimony, Pyongyang and Washington had begun discussions about food aid and how to restart nuclear disarmament talks that were suspended when Kim died last month. The U.S. and North Korea fought on opposite sides of the 1950-53 Korean War and do not have formal diplomatic relations.

Sunday's footage—shown on a day believed to be Kim Jong Un's birthday—confirmed that he was being groomed as early as 2009 to succeed Kim Jong Il. The choice of Kim Jong Un as successor among the elder Kim's three known sons was not revealed publicly until state media reported in September 2010 that he had been made a four-star general and a vice chairman of the Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party.

The video showed Kim Jong Un shaking hands with officials at a satellite control center after scientists launched a rocket in April 2009 that stoked regional tensions and earned North Korea international sanctions and condemnation.

"I had decided to wage a real war if the enemies shot down" the rocket, Kim Jong Un was quoted as saying. A voice-over described Kim Jong Il as saying his son was in charge of the military's anti-rocket interception operations at the time.

North Korea has said it successfully sent a satellite into orbit as part of a peaceful bid to develop its space program. U.S. and South Korean officials, however, said no satellite or other object reached orbit, and accused the North of using the launch to test its long-range missile technology.

At the time, Japan had threatened to shoot down any debris from the rocket if the launch went awry. U.S. lawmakers also urged their military to shoot the rocket down.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Afghan opposition urges caution in Taliban talks

BERLIN (AP)—Three prominent Afghan opposition leaders on Monday warned against trusting the Taliban in peace talks, saying they are "not honest." Former Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum and two other members of the Afghan National Front said it would be "naive" to exclude the possibility that the Taliban are using negotiations to assuage the United States government while troops are being withdrawn, while planning to "resurge" after they are gone at the end of 2014. The comments come a week after the Taliban announced plans to open a political office in Qatar to hold talks with the U.S.

NKorea to issue special pardons for convicts

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea will issue special pardons for convicts to commemorate milestone birthdays of its two late leaders, state media said Tuesday, in the first such dispensations in more than six years. The pardons come as North Korea's new leader, Kim Jong Un, moves to solidify his power in the wake of his father Kim Jong Il's death last month. Believed to be in his late 20s, Kim Jong Un has already picked up a slew of prominent titles such as supreme commander of the military, with top officials publicly pledging their loyalty. The pardons will start Feb. 1 at the decree of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly, the official Korean Central News Agency said in a dispatch. KCNA did not say what sorts of crimes would be pardoned or how many inmates would be freed.

World

Egypt's Brotherhood treads carefully after victory

CAIRO (AP)—The Muslim Brotherhood has emerged as the biggest winner in parliamentary elections, but the fundamentalist group that has long dreamed of ruling Egypt is likely to be cautious about flexing its newfound muscle.

The Brotherhood has been crushed by the military before and will likely tread carefully to avoid spooking the ruling generals or the country's Western supporters, who provide generous amounts of badly needed foreign aid.

That may be the best tactic for the Brotherhood as it seeks to translate its impressive electoral victory into political power while reassuring this turbulent nation of 85 million people that it has no intention of monopolizing power.

So far, the Brotherhood's political arm, the Freedom and Justice party, is insisting it has no immediate desire to push through Islamic legislation or form a new government to replace one led by a prime minister named by the military only days before the staggered elections began on Nov. 28.

Additionally, it has distanced itself from more militant Islamic groups, including the ultra-conservative Salafis, who won a quarter of seats, and has gone to great lengths to avoid a clash with the powerful generals who took over from Hosni Mubarak 11 months ago.

AP

In this Friday, Jan. 6, 2012 file photo, Mohamed Morsi, left, of Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood and Egyptian presidential hopeful Amr Moussa, right, talk before Christmas Eve mass, led by Coptic Pope Shenouda III at the Coptic cathedral in Cairo, Egypt.

"The cautious approach is rooted in part in the lessons the Muslim Brotherhood has learned from past clashes with the army, for which it paid dearly," columnist Abdullah al-Sinawi wrote in Monday's edition of the independent Al-Shorouk daily.

The Brotherhood has spent most of the 84 years since its inception in 1928 as an outlawed organization. At times, it enjoyed a level of relative tolerance by authorities that allowed it to function as a religious charity and political body, running a huge network of social services and fielding parliamentary candidates as independents.

But for most of those eight decades, Brotherhood leaders and supporters have been targeted in harsh government crackdowns that saw hundreds jailed, tortured and convicted, often on drummed up charges.

The Feb. 11 ouster of Mubarak heralded the empowerment of the Brotherhood. The group responded with astonishing speed, quickly organizing its ranks to contest the elections and emerging as the nation's most dominant political force. Its Freedom and Justice party is now the largest bloc in the next legislature, though final results of the staggered election have yet to be announced.

The Brotherhood's show of flexibility is typical of an organization that has honed to perfection survival tactics developed during decades of functioning underground to escape crackdowns by successive governments. It also emanates from the series of setbacks it has suffered over the years whenever it flaunted its power.

For example, Brotherhood leaders forged close ties with the army officers who seized power in a 1952 coup, acting as their political and spiritual patrons until the same officers cracked down on the group two years later.

The group enjoyed something of a revival during the 11-year rule of President Anwar Sadat, who used it to counter the weight of militant Islamic groups. Mubarak, who succeeded Sadat in 1981, initially tolerated the group, but subjected it to wave after wave of arrests starting in the 1990s on the grounds that it offered militant groups tacit support.

Aid group thinks it found the first Haiti cholera case

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—A mentally ill man who bathed in and drank from a contaminated river most likely was the first person to be infected in the Caribbean country's deadly cholera outbreak, a Boston humanitarian group said Monday.

Partners in Health, which works in Haiti, reported the case Monday in a study it did on the outbreak and published in the American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.

Officials say the cholera outbreak that began in 2010 has killed 7,000 people and sickened nearly 500,000. The disease surfaced in Haiti months after a powerful earthquake struck the country two years ago this week.

The humanitarian group's Dr. David Walton, who co-authored the study with Dr. Louise Ivers, said information points to a 28-year-old mentally ill man from the central town of Mirebalais as the first person infected with the waterborne disease.

He said the man's family had access to clean drinking water but his auditory hallucinations and paranoia went without treatment and he bathed in and drank frequently from a river into which the Meye River fed. The Meye has been identified as the likely source of the epidemic.

"It's a striking example of how mental health, infectious disease and community health affects overall well-being," Walton, an internist, said by telephone.

The case serves as a reminder of how mental health services are often an afterthought in health services planning, he added.

The mentally ill man developed acute diarrhea on Oct. 12, 2010, and died at his home without seeking medical attention less than 24 hours later.

He was buried the next day and two people who prepared the body for the wake developed severe diarrhea in less than 48 hours.

The study also points out how globalization can help spread a disease like cholera to other parts of the world. Cholera cases were also found in the neighboring Dominican Republic, Miami and Boston.

Studies suggest the cholera was likely brought to Haiti by a United Nations peacekeeping battalion from Nepal, where the disease is endemic. Haiti now has the highest cholera infection rate in the world, according to Partners in Health.

On Tuesday, Partners in Health's co-founder, Dr. Paul Farmer, and the Haitian government will "inaugurate" the near completion of a 320-bed, national referral and teaching hospital in Mirebalais, 30 miles (48 kilometers) north of Port-au-Prince. It is described as one of the largest projects completed since the earthquake.

Swiss National Bank chief quits amid trades uproar

GENEVA (AP)—Swiss National Bank chief Philipp Hildebrand resigned Monday, acknowledging he could not prove his innocence amid a public uproar over his private currency deals.

Hildebrand's resignation took effect immediately, Switzerland's central bank said in a brief statement. Vice chairman Thomas Jordan stepped in as chairman.

The move came just before a Swiss parliamentary committee was to grill Hildebrand behind closed doors about currency deals that raked in fat profits while his own central bank was actively working to lower the value of the Swiss franc.

Switzerland has been in an uproar since news broke of the dollar swaps that netted Hildebrand and his wife Kashya, a former currency trader, tens of thousands of dollars in profits last year.

At an impromptu press conference in the Swiss capital of Bern, Hildebrand emphasized Monday how proud he was of his achievements and of working for financial institutions in Switzerland and international organizations such as the World Bank.

"I would like to think I have been a damn good central banker," Hildebrand told reporters. "I deeply regret these mistakes as well as the entire situation."

Last Thursday he broke weeks of silence over the deal to deny any breach of central bank rules and to announce that he was donating the profits to charity. Four days later, he was out of a job.

It was a shocking comedown for the man who a year ago had become the central bank's youngest-ever president and chairman at 47. The former champion national swimmer had transformed himself into a financial prodigy and a champion of Swiss banking, with one publication calling him a financial "rock star."

"I personally advocated strongly and early for stricter capital requirements for the big banks," he declared Monday. "The policy of the central bank was a success in recent years."

While still maintaining that he broke no central bank rules, Hildebrand said a central bank chairman must be viewed as beyond reproach and he could not prove that his wife carried out the currency transactions on Aug. 15 without his explicit consent.

"I cannot once and for all prove that it was as I said it was," he said.

Hildebrand released e-mails, bank telephone records and an affidavit Monday showing he had previously told a client adviser that his wife was allowed to buy dollars.

The documents say he learned of the trade a day after his wife bought around a half-million dollars just as the dollar hit a record low against the franc and two days before the Swiss National Bank flooded the market with francs.

Hildebrand says he regrets not reversing the trade. The profits from it appeared to be almost 75,000 Swiss francs ($83,000), based on the amount he later donated to charity.

"The fact is: my word is my bond. I had no knowledge of my wife's transaction that day. Unfortunately, mistakes were made in connection with these transactions," he said.

WORLD BRIEFS

Belgian royals latest to join austerity drive

BRUSSELS (AP)—Belgium's King Albert II on Monday said he'll use part of his salary to help pay for the upkeep on his properties, making him the latest European royal whose pocketbook is being squeezed by the economic woes afflicting the continent. The financial crisis has hit several European countries that still have royal families, including Spain, Britain and Belgium. With their palaces, estates and often ostentatious tastes, monarchs and their kin have faced criticism as governments pass austerity measures, and some have seen their public funding cut. "It shows that in countries with serious financial problems" even monarchies cannot escape the pressure, said Professor Herman Matthijs, who teaches public finance at Belgium's University of Ghent.

'Age is nothing,' rescued 84-year-old sailor says

VALPARAISO, Chile (AP)—An American sailor rescued in the remote South Pacific isn't ruling out another effort to navigate alone around the tip of South America. After all, he's tried only six times now to achieve the feat, and he's just 84 years old. "Age means nothing. What is important is that you are alive, so I don't worry about numbers. I worry about life. That, I think, is more important," Thomas Louis Corogin said Monday after the Chilean navy brought him to shore. Corogin had set sail Dec. 27 from Easter Island on the last and most difficult part of his attempt to sail around Cape Horn, preparing to weather some of the world's most dangerous seas. But then a key piece of rigging snapped.

Rain kills at least 8 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

JAMAPARA, Brazil (AP)—Heavy rains caused mudslides that killed at least eight people in Rio de Janeiro state Monday, raising the number of dead in Rio and neighboring Minas Gerais state to 23 so far this year, civil defense officials said. Mud loosened by the rain swallowed about 10 houses in the town of Sapucaia Monday morning. Seven residents were confirmed dead by rescue crews that are still searching for survivors. The eighth victim died when a house collapsed nearby. Up to 20 other people are still missing, according to Rio state's civil defense department. Local authorities are still compiling a list of the disappeared.

Focus

Haiti 2 years later: Half a million still in camps

By TRENTON DANIEL
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Days after the earthquake killed his little girl and destroyed much of his house, Meristin Florival moved his family into a makeshift tent on a hill in the Haitian capital and called it home. Two years later they're still there, living without drains, running water or electricity.

A few kilometers (miles) away, Jean Rony Alexis has left the camp where he spent the months after the quake and moved into a shed-like shelter built on a concrete slab by the Red Cross. But he's not much better off. The annual rent charged by a landlord who lives in a nearby camp jumped from $312 to $375, and he too has no running water.

"This is misery," said Florival, whose 4-month-old daughter was crushed to death in the quake-stricken family home. "I don't see any benefits," said Alexis, whose shed is flooded with noise at night from a saloon next door that's appropriately named the "Frustration Bar."

The two men are among hundreds of thousands of Haitians whose lives have barely improved since those first days of devastation, when the death toll climbed toward 300,000 and the world opened its wallets in response.

While U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, former U.S. President Bill Clinton and others vowed that the world would help Haiti "build back better," and $2.38 billion has been spent, Haitians have hardly seen any building at all.

At the time, grand ambitions were voiced for a Haiti rebuilt on modern lines. New housing would replace shantytowns and job-generating industry would be spread out to ease the human crush of Port-au-Prince, the sprawling capital with its 3 million people.

But now the government seems to be going back to basics, nurturing small, community-based projects designed to bring the homeless back to their old neighborhoods to build, renovate and find jobs through friends.

The reasons for the slow progress are many. Beyond being among the world's poorest nations and a frequent victim of destructive weather, Haiti's land registry is in chaos—a drag on reconstruction because it's not always clear who owns what land. Then there's a political standoff that went on for more than a year and still hobbles decision-making.

After the quake, a disputed presidential election triggered tire-burning riots that shut down Port-au-Prince for three days. The international airport was forced to close and foreign aid workers had to hunker down in their compounds.

Even after the vote was resolved and Michel Martelly was installed as president in May 2011, there were further snags. The former pop star, new to politics, took six months to install a prime minister, whose job is to oversee reconstruction projects. He infuriated opposition politicians because his administration jailed a deputy without following the law and named a prime minister without consulting them first. They retaliated by trying to thwart him at every turn.

AP
In this Jan. 4, 2012 photo, Pirist Dugard, 31, places rock on a tarp covering his tent at a camp set up for people displaced by the 2010 earthquake, in what used to be an airstrip in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

For six months, Martelly was running a government with ministers of the outgoing administration. "It created a situation where it was difficult to take off," the new foreign affairs minister, Laurent Lamothe, told The Associated Press.

Another victim of the impasse was a reconstruction panel co-chaired by Clinton, the U.N. Special Envoy to Haiti. Lawmakers refused to renew its mandate, complaining it contained too few Haitians, though they may have been using it as a pretext to punish Martelly. But it meant that for the next six months there was no agency in place to coordinate home-building.

Meanwhile government employees could be found napping at their desks while awaiting orders from their bosses that never came.

The government and international partners say there has been some progress—600 classrooms for 60,000 children to return to school, more than half of the 10 million cubic meters of rubble cleared, and roads newly paved in the capital and countryside.

New housing is still the most critical objective, yet the biggest official housing effort targets just 5 percent of those in need, and the encampments of cardboard, tarps and bed sheets that went up to cope with 1.5 million homeless people have morphed into shantytowns that increasingly look permanent.

> 'It's the same thing. I was suffering there. I'm suffering here.'

More than 550,000 people are still living in the grim and densely packed camps that are squeezed into the capital's alleyways and pitched on the side of rural roads. And many of those who left the camps, often being evicted or paid to go, say their new conditions are little better, and sometimes much worse.

"I certainly wouldn't call (reconstruction) a success," said Alex Dupuy, who has written books about Haiti and teaches at Wesleyan University in Connecticut. "Other than putting a government in place ... I haven't seen any concrete evidence of recovery under way."

In the first year after the quake, the previous government never set up a housing agency or a clear housing strategy, and meanwhile the camps swelled because foreign aid groups were delivering what the government didn't: water, latrines and electricity. Former President Rene Preval identified five plots of land for new housing but only obtained one, through eminent domain.

Of the 10 best-funded projects approved by a reconstruction panel, not one focuses exclusively on housing. A U.S.-financed $225 million industrial park includes housing for 5,000 workers. But it's on the northern coast of Haiti, 240 kilometers (150 miles) outside the quake zone.

The highest-profile effort to house the displaced came three months after the quake, on the eve of the rainy season. The U.S. military and actor Sean Penn bused 5,000 people from a flood-prone golf course to a cleared field in Corail-Cesselesse, north of Port-au-Prince. It was supposed to be the country's first planned community, with factories and houses for 300,000 people.

That never happened.

Today, the people of Corail-Cesselesse are ravaged by floods or bake in the heat in their timber-frame shelters. They are far from the jobs that sustained them before the quake. They speak of abandonment and lack of services.

"It looks like there's no government," said Stanley Xavier, a 30-year-old former cabbie, now unemployed. "Before they moved us out of the golf club, they made a lot of promises like they'll create cash-for-work."

"They said they'd give us jobs," said neighbor Jocelin Belzince, 39. Instead he says he has had to become an extortionist, charging newcomers $250 for a scrap of land he doesn't own.

"It's an opportunity for us to survive; I have kids to feed," Belzince said with a smile. "It's not only us doing this. There are a lot of people doing the same thing."

Martelly's new administration has begun building two housing projects: 400 homes by the bay and another 3,000 at the foot of a deforested mountain. And Lamothe, the foreign affairs minister, says $40 million in Venezuelan aid will be used to develop the southern coastal town of Jacmel in hopes of decongesting the capital.

But the government's overall strategy now is to move quake survivors back into their old neighborhoods even if many of those were slums even before the quake. That skirts the land title issue, makes infrastructure cheaper and puts people closer to old friends who might help them find work.

This comes in the form of a housing project in Port-au-Prince called "6/16." The government and aid groups are moving residents of six camps into 16 neighborhoods to be redeveloped. Several thousand people have already left three settlements, one in a stadium parking lot, the others in two middle-class town squares ringed by amenities such as restaurants, a church and a hotel.

The program seeks to house only 5 percent of the displaced population, but government officials say it's a pilot project that they hope to replicate elsewhere.

Residents can pay the landlord a subsidized annual rent of $500, or accept money to build or rebuild their own homes. They also get $150 in moving costs.

"Staying in a tent is not an option any more, two years after the earthquake," said Nicole Widdersheim of the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Although it's more modest than the old ambition of dispersing population to new areas, "6/16" is getting some $125 million in aid, mostly from the World Bank and the World Bank-run Haiti Reconstruction Fund.

Many former camp dwellers have moved into old, boxy apartments in the vast mountainside shantytown called Jalousie. Here young people hum Rihanna hits and fist-bump each other, saying, "respect—Jalousie," a sign that a sense of neighborhood is taking hold.

Marise Nelson, a pregnant mother of one who received $500 from aid groups to pay a year's rent, doesn't miss the camp in the town square which she left after two years.

"You couldn't find food. You couldn't find water. You couldn't find a community," said Nelson, a 26-year-old homemaker.

She likes her new one-bedroom house, the neighbors, the water well and the little boutiques.

"The big difference here is that I can keep the place clean," she said as she stirred a pot of white rice and her daughter peered behind her.

Meristin Florival wishes he could too. Instead, he says, he must put up with neighbors in a camp who use plastic bags for their bodily waste and toss them onto shanty roofs.

Jean Rony Alexis and his wife, Darlene Claircin, are glad to have shade from the sun and room for a table and bed, but say life is no better in the crowded Delmas section of the capital than it was in the camp.

"It's the same thing," Alexis said. "I was suffering there. I'm suffering here."

Campus Life

New US sex education standards released

By KIMBERLY HEFLING
AP EDUCATION WRITER

CHICAGO TRIBUNE/MCT
Gurrie Middle School 8th grader Katie Mota, 14, front, and her classmates listen to a sex education lecture at the Robert Crown Center in Hinsdale, Illinois, on Wednesday.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Young elementary school pupils should use the proper names for body parts and know by the end of fifth grade that sexual orientation is "the romantic attraction of an individual to someone of the same gender or a different gender," according to sexual education guidelines released Monday by health and education groups.

The nonbinding recommendations to states and school districts seek to encourage age-appropriate discussions about sex, bullying and healthy relationships, starting with a foundation even before second grade.

Most U.S. children enter first grade at age 6.

By presenting minimum standards that schools can use to formulate school curriculums for each age level, the groups hope that schools can build a sequential foundation that in the long term will give teens more help as they grow into adults.

Experts say schools across America are inconsistent in how they address such sensitive topics.

Despite awareness of bullying, for example, Debra Hauser, president of Advocates for Youth, a group involved with creating the standards, said some schools do not deal with it, or at least not in relation to sexual orientation or gender identity, which is what she said is the cause of a lot of bullying.

"They should tackle it head-on," Hauser said.

Other organizations involved with the release include the American Association of Health Education, the American School Health Association, the National Education Association - Health Information Network, the Society of State Leaders of Health and Physical Education, and the Future of Sex Education Initiative. The latest suggestions were drawing less enthusiastic reactions from some.

By the end of second grade, the guidelines say students should use the correct body part names for the male and female anatomy and understand that all living things reproduce and that all people have the right not to be touched if they do not want to be. They also say young elementary school children should be able to identity different kinds of family structures and explain why bullying and teasing are wrong.

Beyond lessons about puberty by the end of fifth grade, the guidelines say students should be able to define sexual harassment and abuse.

When they leave middle school, generally as a young teenager, they should be able to differentiate between gender identity, gender expression and sexual orientation, according to the guidelines. They also say they should be able to explain why a rape victim is not at fault, know about bullying and dating violence and describe the signs and impacts of sexually transmitted diseases.

It calls for those leaving eighth grade also to be able to evaluate the effectiveness of abstinence, condoms and other "safer sex methods" and know how emergency contraception works. Many of these issues the groups encouraged to be further addressed in high school as well.

It was unclear how much influence the recommendations will have among educators.

Cora Collette Breuner, a pediatrics professor at the University of Washington and Seattle Children's Hospital and a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics committee on adolescence who was not involved in the creation of the standards, praised the approach of encouraging discussions at an early age.

"The data points that trying to cover this stuff when kids have already formulated their own opinions and biases by the time they're in middle and high school, it's too late," Breuner said.

Valerie Huber, executive director of the National Education Abstinence Association, said she does not agree with the topics and goals of the standards. Like the anti-smoking campaign of the last few decades that has had success, abstinence should be the focus of such programs, she said.

"This should be a program about health, rather than agendas that have nothing to do with optimal sexual health decision-making," Huber said. "Controversial topics are best reserved for conversations between parent and child, not in the classroom."

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Kimberly Hefling can be followed at http://twitter.com/khefling

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National Sexuality Education Standards Core Content and Skills, K-12: http://www.ashaweb.org/files/public/Sexuality%20Education/JOSH-FoSE-Standards.pdf

Not quite an MIT degree, but MITx may still appeal

By JUSTIN POPE
AP EDUCATION WRITER

Think you can hack it at MIT? If so, the world-renowned university is willing to give you a new kind of credential to prove it.

Not a full-fledged diploma—that's still a possibility only for the 10,000 or so students admitted to its Cambridge, Massachusetts, campus. But on Monday, MIT announced that for the first time it will offer credentials—under the name "MITx"—to students who complete the online version of certain courses, starting with a pilot program this spring.

"This is not MIT light. This is not an easier version of MIT," said Provost L. Rafael Reif. "An MITx learner, anywhere they are, for them to earn a credential they have to demonstrate mastery of the subject just like an MIT student does."

The announcement comes as elite universities like Stanford, Yale and Carnegie-Mellon are experimenting with how to use the Internet to extend their teaching to a global audience hungering for instruction on platforms like YouTube, Apple's iTunes U and others developed by universities themselves. MIT's OpenCourseWare has been among the most popular, making course materials such as syllabi, tests and lecture videos from over 2,000 MIT classes available free online. The 10-year-old program has been accessed by more than 100 million people worldwide.

But where elite universities like MIT have mostly stopped short is offering some kind of credential that carries the university name and proves the recipient has mastered the high-caliber curriculum. One concern is that awarding such credentials too readily could dilute the value of the degree earned by students in the university's highly-selective traditional programs. But MIT officials said while OpenCourseWare has distributed knowledge widely, the lack of a credential keeps many from benefiting.

Many users "want to have piece of paper saying they learned something and maybe that will help them get a job," Reif said.

Now MIT is looking to strike that balance—with an extra letter. University officials described "MITx" as a non-profit entity established inside the university that will offer an "MIT-sanctioned certificate" for completing various courses and, perhaps eventually, degree programs.

How exactly will it work? On a conference call Friday, university officials were short on many details—how many courses would eventually be offered, how much it would cost, even the name of the first course for the experiment in spring.

They did say they would focus, at least initially, on science and engineering, where assessment is fairly objective and easily scaled up. Users might include a high school senior who wants to take an early freshman class at MIT, or college students at overseas universities where a particular course isn't offered, explained Anant Agarwal, an electrical engineering and computer science professor who is helping lead the initiative.

Users will experience courses in a new, open-source online learning platform that will also be made available to other universities to operate themselves and develop their own courses. For each MIT course, students would find interactive videos and other materials, and could even potentially complete science laboratory assignments from afar.

It's not clear how much if any direct access participants would have to MIT faculty; as Agarwal described it, computer models might alert professors to the most common questions for them to address, but less common questions might be answered by other students taking the same course. Most assessments would be automated, but MIT said everyone would be held to the same standards as regular MIT students.

So far, everything would be free. But students who want to receive a credential from MITx might have to take an additional exam at a secure testing site to demonstrate mastery, and would also have to pay. The university said it hadn't decided yet how much to charge. Officials said they want the courses to be affordable, so prices might vary between countries, but they believe it's important for students to pay something.

Reif said "money is not the driver." But with MIT's global brand and the huge interest OpenCourseWare has already generated, there's clearly revenue potential. Roger Schonfeld, director of research at Ithaka S+R, who follows the field, said the potential market will depend on a range of factors—namely what MIT charges and whether other universities decide the MIT brand is meaningful enough that they will accept transfer credits from a program that is not-quite MIT.

While many universities—both for-profit and traditional—offer online courses for credit, Schonfeld said he believed this was the first time a highly selective university has offered a credential on this model.

Stanford offers a "certificate of completion" for some of the hugely popular online engineering courses it offers, but it holds no value as part of a degree program, the university said. Stanford's highly popular offerings on YouTube and iTunes offer no opportunities for credit, nor do the popular "Open Yale" courses.

But in a way, Schonfeld said, MIT's project is kind of a throw-back. A number of prominent universities, such as Harvard and NYU, have extension programs or colleges of general studies where they offer at least a version of their teaching to a much broader swath of the public than those who make it through the bottleneck of the traditional admissions process.

"The prospect of taking that kind of model, if that's what this is, into an online environment, and scaling it up into a global model is really exciting," he said.

Life & Style

Jay-Z raps about the birth of his daughter with Beyonce

By NEKESA MUMBI MOODY
AP MUSIC WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Through a rap verse, Jay-Z has confirmed the birth of "the most beautiful" girl in the world—his newborn daughter.

The song "Glory" made its debut on his social website Life and Times on Monday—two days after his wife Beyonce gave birth to daughter Blue Ivy.

An official statement from the couple came Monday afternoon, as both said: "We are happy to announce the arrival of our beautiful daughter, Blue Ivy Carter."

The couple said the baby was delivered naturally and weighed seven pounds (3.2 kilograms). "Her birth was emotional and extremely peaceful, we are in heaven. ... It was the best experience of both of our lives. We are thankful to everyone for all your prayers, well wishes, love and support."

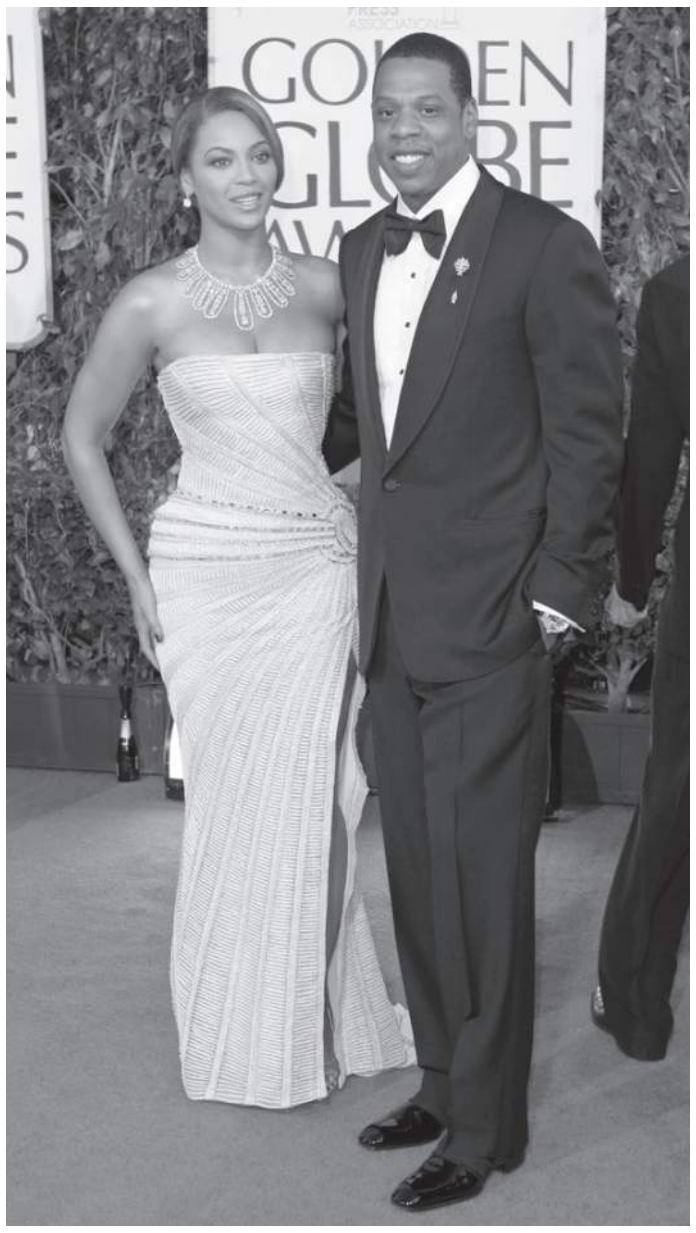
Jay-Z's sweet song, in which he says "you're my child with a child from Destiny's Child," gives more revelations.

In the song, Jay-Z, whose real name is Shawn Carter, talks about where the child was conceived (in Paris) and even reveals that Beyonce had a miscarriage at one point.

"Last time the miscarriage was so tragic/We was afraid you'd disappear/But nah baby you magic."

The song's refrain is: "The most amazing feeling I feel/ Words can't describe what I'm feeling for real/ Maybe I paint the sky blue/My greatest creation was you. You. Glory."

The sound of a baby's cries—perhaps Blue's—ends the song. The song says it features "B.I.C."—Blue's initials.



AP

In this Jan. 11, 2009 file photo, Beyonce, left, is joined by husband Jay-Z, as she arrives at the 66th Annual Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif.

It's the first child for the power couple, who wed in 2008 in a private ceremony after a years-long courtship. Beyonce announced her pregnancy to the world last August at the MTV Video Music Awards with a simple rub of her swollen belly.

Celebs close to the couple have tweeted congrats. Beyonce's sister, Solange Knowles, tweeted Sunday morning: "The most beautiful girl in the world," while Beyonce's close friend Gwyneth Paltrow also tweeted: "Welcome to the world Blue! We love you already."

The couple gave birth at Lenox Hill Hospital on New York's Upper East Side on Saturday. The hospital's executive director, Frank Danza, said in a statement Monday that the hospital was "delighted" to have the couple deliver their child there, but its staff is "troubled by the misinformation being circulated in some news media reports."

The statement shot down reports that the couple paid more than $1 million to rent a floor of the hospital for the birth, and said that the couple was in an executive suite and was "billed the standard rate for those accommodations. Our executive suites are available for any patient, including the food service and amenities provided to the Carter family."

One new mother, Rozz Nash-Coulon, told The Associated Press that her twins, born Dec. 28, were in the neonatal unit, and starting Friday, intense security measures made it a struggle to see her own children as guards directed hallway traffic.

"Once they checked in there was high security everywhere. It looked like the president was on our floor. The hospital's security cameras were taped over. Internal windows from the hallways into the ward were blacked out," 38-year-old Nash-Coulon said.

She said she and other parents are trying to mobilize to protest their treatment, which she called "disgusting."

A New York state senator, Eric Adams, said that he has asked the hospital to investigate and take "appropriate action to restore faith in the delivery of quality medical service without socioeconomic status." He said that Neil Coulon, the father, was allegedly denied access to see his children.

But Danza said although Beyonce and Jay-Z had their own security, "the hospital has been and still continues to be in control of managing all security at the facility. We have made every effort to ensure minimal disruption to other families experiencing the births of their own children over the past three days."

He also added that no security would have prevented a parent from gaining access to the neonatal intensive unit and no family complained to the hospital about it.

"Lenox Hill Hospital takes patient privacy and safety very seriously," he added. "And while we congratulate the Carter family on the birth of their child, we value the loyalty of ALL our patients and always strive to ensure a positive experience, knowing that the birth of a child is a wonderful moment producing memories of a lifetime."

Picasso and Mondrian paintings stolen in Greece

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Thieves carried out a well-organized, pre-dawn heist at Greece's biggest state art museum on Monday, taking two oil paintings by 20th century masters Pablo Picasso and Piet Mondrian, police said.

A police statement said the burglars who entered through a balcony door also took a pen and ink drawing of a religious scene by Italian 16th century painter Guglielmo Caccia. It said a fourth work by Mondrian also was removed from the National Art Gallery in one of the best-guarded areas of central Athens, but the thieves abandoned it as they fled.

AP

In this June 30, 2011 handout file photo provided by the Greek police shows a 1939 female bust by Spanish painter Pablo Picasso, belonging to the National Art Gallery in Athens.

Museum officials were unable to immediately estimate how much the stolen works were worth.

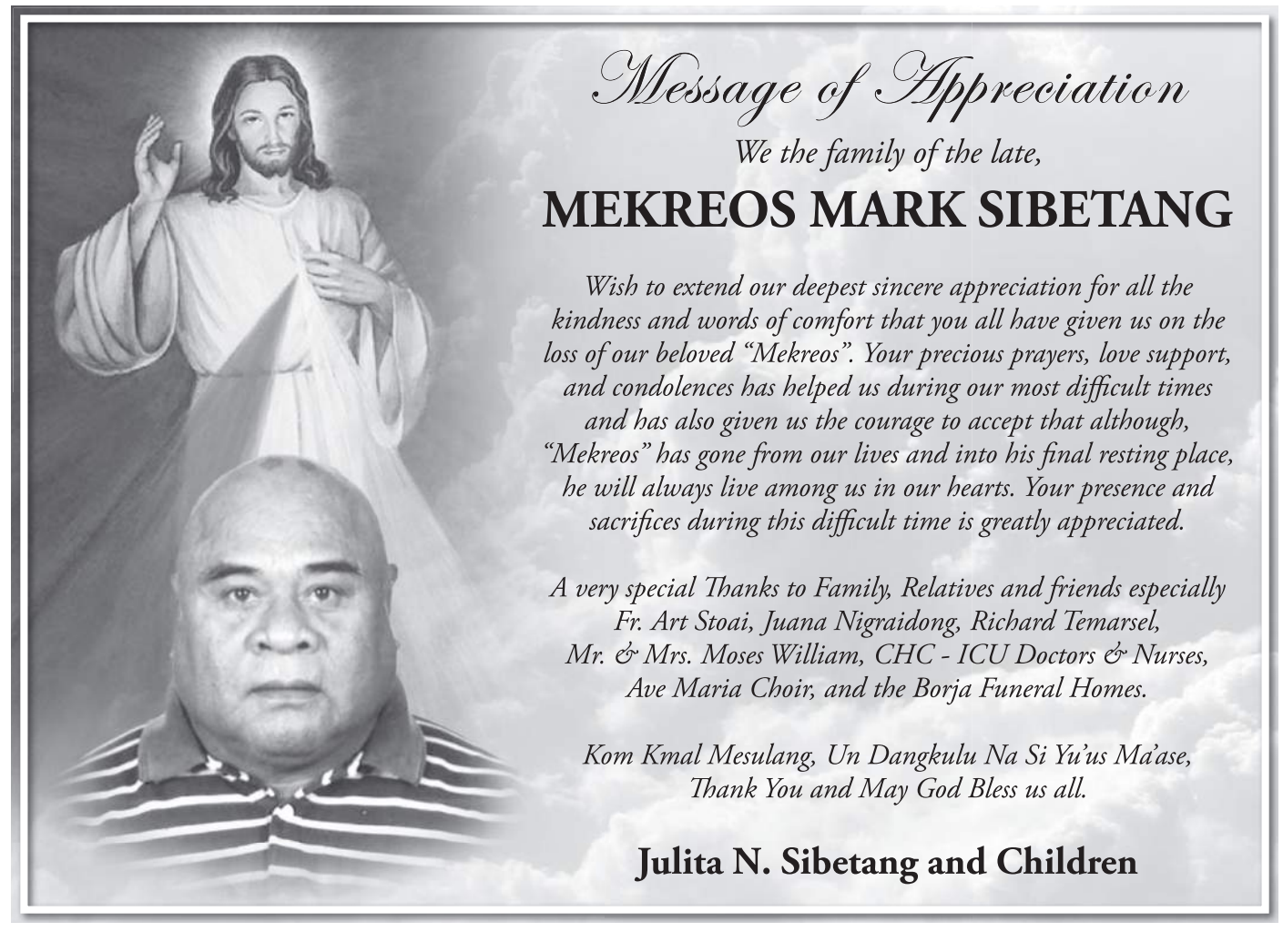
Police said the heist took about seven minutes. The thieves had intentionally set off alarms on several occasions since Sunday evening without actually entering the building, prompting guards to disable at least one.

The burglars still triggered a sensor in the exhibition area, but a guard only got there in time to see a man running off.

Among the stolen works was a cubist female bust by Pablo Picasso, which the Spanish painter had donated to Greece in 1949 with a dedication "in homage to the Greek people" for their resistance to Nazi occupiers during World War II.

The thieves also took a 1905 representational oil painting of a riverside windmill by Mondrian, famous for his later abstract linear works, and a drawing of St. Diego de Alcala by Caccia. All three works were stripped from their frames.

The art gallery contains mostly 19th and 20th century Greek painting, but had just wound up a display of its western European collections that include prints and etchings by German master Albrecht Duerer and Rembrandt van Rijn. It had been due to close Monday for a long period of extension and refurbishment.


Message of Appreciation
We the family of the late,
MEKREOS MARK SIBETANG
Wish to extend our deepest sincere appreciation for all the kindness and words of comfort that you all have given us on the loss of our beloved "Mekreos". Your precious prayers, love support, and condolences has helped us during our most difficult times and has also given us the courage to accept that although, "Mekreos" has gone from our lives and into his final resting place, he will always live among us in our hearts. Your presence and sacrifices during this difficult time is greatly appreciated.
A very special Thanks to Family, Relatives and friends especially Fr. Art Stoai, Juana Nigraidong, Richard Temarsel, Mr. & Mrs. Moses William, CHC - ICU Doctors & Nurses, Ave Maria Choir, and the Borja Funeral Homes.
Kom Kmal Mesulang, Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Thank You and May God Bless us all.
Julita N. Sibetang and Children

Gala premiere, then quiet 30th for Kate Middleton

By GREGORY KATZ and SYLVIA HUI
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON (AP)—After attending a gala film premiere in a full-length lacy evening gown, Kate Middleton has stepped out of the public gaze to celebrate her milestone 30th birthday in private.

She turned heads—and dominated Britain's Monday morning front pages—by attending the London opening of Steven Spielberg's "War Horse" wearing a striking design by Alice Temperley. Her husband, Prince William, used an umbrella to keep her glossy brown hair drizzle-free.

It was another star turn for Middleton, who has appeared ever more comfortable in public since joining the royal family in April.

Palace officials said the Duchess of Cambridge's birthday celebration will be a "low-key and private" affair. The choice of a muted event seems appropriate: After all, the duchess is not just starting the fourth decade of her life—she is also embarking on her career as a future queen, charged with renovating a monarchy that has become somewhat creaky with age.

"She's done very well, playing a very good supporting role to Prince William and complementing him as part of a team," said Robert Jobson, author of "William and Kate: The Love Story." ''We've not seen much of her, but when she's in public she has performed with aplomb."

The past year has seen momentous changes for Kate, with a fairytale wedding to Prince William, travels around the world and glamorous appearances that marked her transition from commoner to the world's most talked-about princess and style icon. She has won rave reviews for her sparkle, her elegant sense of style, and her common touch with the public.

But now that the excitement around her grand wedding has subsided, she is expected to quietly settle down into her royal duties—and for much of this year, that means helping Queen Elizabeth II celebrate her Diamond Jubilee, without upstaging the monarch in her moment of glory, and also playing a supporting role at the London 2012 Olympic Games.

AP
The Duchess of Cambridge arrives for the UK Premiere of 'War Horse' in aid of The Foundation of Prince William and Prince Harry, at a central London cinema, London, Sunday, Jan. 8, 2012.

Until recently, palace officials have been quiet about what exactly her role will be, keen to protect her transition into a fully fledged royal from the glare of the media limelight. The newlyweds, who live in a remote corner of north Wales, were said to favor a "quieter life" after the massive global media coverage of their April wedding.

The former Middleton ventured out on her first solo engagement in October—a private charity dinner for about 30 guests—but is yet to make a public speech on her own.

That is set to change. This week, royal officials finally gave the first insight into her new role when they announced which charities she's supporting, including the Scouts and a group that helps drug addicts. More organizations will follow later, officials said.

She has already taken on an unofficial role as a champion of the British fashion industry, wearing the creations of British designers at home and abroad, showcasing their work in the best possible light.

Simon Doonan dishes on French chicks, straight men

By LEANNE ITALIE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP)—Skinny French chicks and roly-poly straight men. Lesbian chic and the chaotic state of style. Nothing and nobody escapes the gaydar of the fabulously floral Simon Doonan in his new book, "Gay Men Don't Get Fat."

The ex-creator of edgy window displays for Barneys details his coming out moment as a boy of 10, reading a reporter's account of gay men hooking up in a North London park after dark ("Sign me up!").

He recounts his giddy deep dive into Christmas ornaments stashed in a White House storeroom by former first ladies as he worked with Michelle Obama on her first-year holiday decor, only to be upstaged by "those idiot Salahis" of red sari, gate-crashing infamy.

The diminutive Doonan was creative director at Barneys for 25 years. After a shake-up at the luxury retailer, he's now creative ambassador-at-large. But he's oh so much more: cheeky memoirist, provocative columnist and always hilarious chronicler of his very gay, very fun New York City life with husband Jonathan Adler, the potter and interior design expert, and their Norwich terrier Liberace.

When it comes to style, Doonan said, gays are the chosen people. From fashion to food, he sees gay men as the real culture keepers over all those hungry females in Mireille Guiliano's "French Women Don't Get Fat."

Doonan

"We gays have an unconventional world view," he said. "We have the piercing objectivity and bold originality of the outsider. French women cannot compete with us. We are not bourgeois. We possess the indiscreet charm of the anti-bourgeoisie."

Here's more from Simon Doonan:

AP: You're "one funny gay nugget," as Chelsea Handler summed up your book in a back-jacket blurb. Yet you say the intended audience is straight women. Do we straight women need educating?

DOONAN: I want to liberate the women of the world and teach them to live with the stylish bravado of we gays—and wee gays like me. Being a woman has become so complicated and pressurized. I want to make it easier, or maybe just more creative. Fashion and style should be about personal expression.

AP: Do you really fly coach?

DOONAN: I'm not part of the 1 percent. I'm a hardworking gay who is proud to fly coach, but only on short flights. I also ride the subway, and not in a Marie Antoinette kind of way. It really is the easiest way to get around.

AP: You used to do the windows at Barneys. Do you miss that?

DOONAN: I dressed windows for almost 40 years. When I finally put down the glue gun last year it was something of a relief. Ditto the staple gun. However, I would highly recommend a career in window display to any budding fashionista. It's been great for me.

AP: You're 59. Do you feel at peace with the aging process?

DOONAN: I loathe the idea of growing old gracefully. I fully intend to grow old eccentrically and dramatically. Brace yourselves! I have no issue with wrinkles or lines. I think people worry too much about that stuff. The most important thing is to stay fit. My fave exercises are tap dancing and runway modeling.

AP: How would you define your approach to clothes and to life?

DOONAN: I'm a charismatic deviant with a freaky world view. I'm determined to extract all the nuggets and nuances from my fabulous gay life and hurl them at the general population with tremendous force and gusto.

AP: You're the fashion guru and your husband, Jonathan Adler, is the decorating guru. How do you reconcile your styles at home? Or is that why people have multiple dwellings?

DOONAN: When it comes to decorating our homes, my Jonny wears the pants. I wear an embroidered Hungarian gypsy dirndl skirt, metaphorically, of course. Seriously, I think doing things by committee is a disaster. Even a committee of two, or three if you count the dog.

UK TV chef caught shoplifting from supermarket

LONDON (AP)—A celebrity chef apologized on his website Monday after he was caught shoplifting from a supermarket.

Antony Worrall Thompson was arrested Friday after reportedly stealing cheese and wine from a Tesco store in the posh riverside town of Henley-on-Thames, west of London.

A Thames Valley Police spokesman who asked not to be identified because of force policy said there had been five separate offenses over the Christmas holidays, leading to an arrest on Friday.

In a statement on his website, the 60-year-old Worrall Thompson, who has appeared on daytime cookery show "Ready Steady Cook," said he was sorry for his misdeeds.

"I am so sorry for all my recent stupid and irresponsible actions; I am of course devastated for my family and friends, whom I've let down and will seek the treatment that is clearly needed," he said. "I am not the first, and I certainly won't be the last person to do something without rhyme or reason—what went through my head, only time will tell."

Worrall Thompson also apologized to Tesco staff. His representatives declined to elaborate on this statement.

The Sun newspaper—in a front page story Monday—said he stole cheese and wine. The newspaper, without citing any sources, said he had shoplifted on several occasions by using an automated self-checkout machine but not scanning all of the items.

Thames Valley Police issued Worrall Thompson with a formal caution—a written rebuke for a crime. Worrall Thompson will not face further charges but the caution can be mentioned in court if he has more trouble with the law.

Many programs designed to help shoplifters curb their impulses regard it as a psychological problem that can sometimes be treated with therapy and medication, including antidepressants. Experts say it usually arises because of personal issues and conflicts, not poverty or greed.

Scorsese, Allen earn Directors Guild honors

By DAVID GERMAIN
AP MOVIE WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Hugo" filmmaker Martin Scorsese and "Midnight in Paris" creator Woody Allen were among nominees Monday for top filmmaking honors from the Directors Guild of America.

Also nominated for the 64th annual Directors Guild honors were David Fincher for the thriller "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo"; Michel Hazanavicius for the silent film "The Artist"; and Alexander Payne for the family drama "The Descendants."

The only first-time contender among the nominees, French filmmaker Hazanavicius could emerge as a front-runner for "The Artist," his black-and-white throwback to early Hollywood that has been a favorite at earlier Hollywood honors.

Scorsese now has nine Directors Guild nominations and is a past feature-film winner for 2006's "The Departed," as well as a TV drama winner a year ago for an episode of "Boardwalk Empire." The family film "Hugo" was a departure for Scorsese, known for dark crime tales, and the movie also was his first shot in 3-D.

Allen has been nominated five times and won for 1977's "Annie Hall." He had not been nominated since his 1989 "Crimes and Misdemeanors" but has been on a critical and commercial resurgence for the romantic fantasy "Midnight in Paris," his biggest hit in decades.

This was the third nomination for Fincher, who also was in the running a year ago for "The Social Network." Payne was nominated one time previously, for 2004's "Sideways."

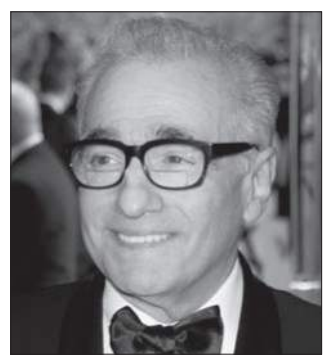
Missing out on a nomination was three-time Directors Guild winner Steven Spielberg for "War Horse." Also left out was Terrence Malick for "The Tree of Life," an epic family drama that won top honors at the Cannes Film Festival but was a love-it-or-hate-it title among critics and fans.

The Directors Guild field is one of Hollywood's most accurate forecasts for who will be in the running at the Academy Awards, whose nominations come out Jan. 24. Most guild contenders go on to grab nominations for the Oscars.

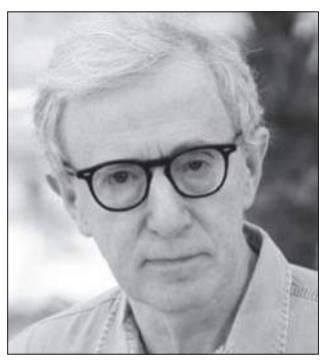
Only six times in the previous 63 years has the guild's winner failed to receive the directing prize at the Oscars.

Last year, Tom Hooper won at both the Directors Guild and the Oscars for "The King's Speech." Fincher had been the favorite to win at the Directors Guild for "The Social Network," but key prizes from Hollywood trade guilds built late momentum for "The King's Speech," which dominated the Oscars with four awards, including best picture.

The guild will announce its winners at a Jan. 28 dinner, with Kelsey Grammer as host.



Scorsese



Allen

Black Sabbath's Tony Iommi diagnosed with cancer

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Black Sabbath guitarist Tony Iommi has cancer.

The band released a statement Monday saying the 63-year-old has been diagnosed with lymphoma and is working with doctors on treatment.

The news comes two months after the pioneering heavy metal quartet's original lineup announced it was working on its first album in 33 years with producer Rick Rubin in Los Angeles. The album remains set for a fall release and the rest of the group—vocalist Ozzy Osbourne, bassist Geezer Butler and drummer Bill Ward—will go to England to continue working with Iommi.

There was no word about Sabbath's plans for its live dates. His bandmates asked fans "to send positive vibes" to Iommi.

French man ordered to stay away from Kirsten Dunst

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge has ordered a French man to stay away from Kirsten Dunst and not attempt to contact the actress for at least the next three years.

Superior Court Judge Carol Boas Goodson issued the order against Jean Christophe Prudhon, of Dijon, France, after a hearing Monday in Los Angeles.

The "Spider-Man" star did not attend the proceedings but wrote in a sworn declaration that she is frightened of Prudhon after he recently tried to reach her at her mother's home.

In letters filed with the court, Prudhon wrote that he sold his home in France, so he could travel to meet the star even though she has not responded to more than 50 missives he has sent.

The order against Prudhon also protects Dunst's mother.

In this Dec. 7, 2011 file photo, actress Kirsten Dunst poses at The Hollywood Reporter's 20th annual Women in Entertainment Breakfast in Beverly Hills, Calif.

AP

Rep: Cannon released from the hospital

NEW YORK (AP)—Nick Cannon is out of the hospital after battling what wife Mariah Carey called "mild kidney failure."

The entertainer was hospitalized in Aspen, Colorado, last week after he fell ill while the couple was on vacation there. He was transferred to a Los Angeles hospital a few days later. Carey said he was suffering from a form of kidney failure but no further details were released.

Cannon

In a statement Monday, Cannon's publicist Tracy Nguyen said he's now "resting and recovering at home" and thanks everyone who was concerned about him.

She says he'll return to his live morning radio show, "Rollin' with Nick Cannon," on Jan. 17.

Novak lashes out at 'The Artist' filmmakers

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Vertigo" leading lady Kim Novak isn't keeping quiet about her disdain for "The Artist."

The 78-year-old actress said in a statement released by her manager Monday that she feels violated because music from the Alfred Hitchcock film is used in the French black-and-white homage to the silent-film era. Novak said "The Artist" filmmakers had no reason "to depend on Bernard Herrmann's score from 'Vertigo' to provide more drama."

Novak

"My body of work has been violated by 'The Artist,'" Novak said. "This film took the love theme music from 'Vertigo' and used the emotions it engenders as its own. Alfred Hitchcock and Jimmy Stewart can't speak for themselves, but I can. It was our work that unconsciously or consciously evoked the memories and feelings to the audience that were used for the climax of 'The Artist.'"

Novak, who played the dual role of both a suicidal trophy wife of a rich San Franciscan and a morose working girl opposite Stewart in in the 1958 thriller directed by Hitchcock, said that even though Herrmann was given "a small credit at the end," she believed "this kind of filmmaking trick to be cheating."

"The Artist," which was written and directed by Michel Hazanavicius and stars Jean Dujardin and Berenice Bejo as silent film actors, leads Sunday's Golden Globes ceremony with six nominations and is expected to be a front-runner at this year's Academy Awards. The wordless film combines a mostly original jazzy score, sound effects and old-fashioned title cards which display dialogue.

"'The Artist' was made as a love letter to cinema, and grew out of my (and all of my cast and crew's) admiration and respect for movies throughout history," Hazanavicius responded in a statement. "It was inspired by the work of Hitchcock, (Fritz) Lang, (John) Ford, (Ernst) Lubitsch, (F.W.) Murnau and (Billy) Wilder. I love Bernard Herrmann and his music has been used in many different films and I'm very pleased to have it in mine. I respect Kim Novak greatly, and I'm sorry to hear she disagrees."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Elton John to write book about the AIDS crisis

LONDON (AP)—Elton John is writing his first book, a personal account of the AIDS crisis. The musician says "Love is the Cure: Ending the Global Aids Epidemic" will include memories of friends who died of AIDS-related illnesses, including Queen frontman Freddie Mercury. British publisher Hodder & Stoughton says the book will be published in July along with an audio book read by the British pop star. The U.S. publisher is Little, Brown. Proceeds will go to the Elton John's AIDS Foundation. John said Monday the book would ask why more is not being done to cure the disease. He said AIDS "is a disease that must be cured not by a miraculous vaccine, but by changing hearts and minds, and through a collective effort to break down social barriers."

William H. Macy: Women love my role on 'Shameless'

NEW YORK (AP)—William H. Macy has earned critical acclaim for playing nerdy asexual characters in films such as "Fargo" and "Magnolia." But he says his role as a conniving deadbeat dad on Showtime's "Shameless" series is turning him into a sex symbol. In a recent interview, Macy says he was hit on by "two seriously good-looking women" while filming in Chicago. He was so surprised that he turned around to see if their attention was meant for someone else. He says he couldn't wait to tell his wife, "Desperate Housewives" star Felicity Huffman. Macy thinks the appeal is partly his longer hair. But, he says, his character is a "rascal" who's quite sexual. Macy says he's "always felt like Tom Cruise" but looks like Howdy Doody. He says he loves the attention.

Snoop Dog hit with minor drug charge in Texas

EL PASO, Texas (AP)—Rapper Snoop Dogg is facing a minor drug charge in Texas after border agents say they found several joints on his tour bus. Hudspeth County sheriff's office said in a statement that Snoop Dogg, whose name is Calvin Broadus, was arrested Saturday at the Sierra Blanca highway checkpoint and cited for possession of drug paraphernalia, a misdemeanor typical in cases involving small amounts of marijuana. According to the sheriff's office, a border agent smelled marijuana smoke coming from the bus and ordered everyone off so that a dog could inspect the vehicle. A prescription bottle with several marijuana cigarettes was found in a trashcan, and more marijuana was found in two other containers. In all, 0.13 pounds (0.06 kilograms) of the drug were found. Broadus admitted the drug was his and was released, the sheriff's office said.

Hollywood's UltraViolet to make its way to TVs

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Hollywood's online movie system, UltraViolet, is finally coming to the TV. Flixster, a unit of Time Warner Inc.'s Warner Bros., said Monday that its app will be available later this year on Panasonic Corp. televisions and Blu-ray players that use its Viera Connect system of connecting to the Internet. Flixster allows registered users to access movies they have bought using the new UltraViolet standard. Starting last October, studios such as Warner Bros., Sony Corp. and Comcast Corp.'s Universal have been selling DVDs and Blu-ray discs on the standard that enable users to record their purchases online and play the movies back over multiple devices. Monday's announcement represents the first time UltraViolet movie files will be playable on regular televisions without needing to put a disc in a physical player.

Addiction to porn is dangerous for teen and his girlfriend

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating "Kyle" for more than six months, but I have loved him for more than two years. I always thought we had a wonderful relationship and that Kyle was a sweet, innocent guy. Well, he just confided to me that he has an Internet porn addiction! I'm very hurt by this and don't want to lose him. What should I do? (By the way, we're both 14.)

INNOCENT TEEN IN MICHIGAN

DEAR INNOCENT TEEN: You should urge Kyle to get help for his addiction. Addiction, by definition, is behavior that is compulsive and out of control.

The problem with teenage boys getting involved with Internet porn is it gives them an unrealistic expectation of how regular, normal women look and act. Although you don't want to lose him, becoming more involved could lead to his wanting to try out his sexual fantasies with you—and if you go along with it, it will land you in a world of trouble. The smart thing to do is end this relationship NOW.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My daughter "Denise's" fiance is 12 years older than she is and still lives with his parents. "Leo" is turning Denise into his mother.

I first noticed it when she cut her beautiful long hair short and in the same style as his mother. Now her lipstick shade is the same as Leo's mother's as well as her glasses and clothing.

At a recent gathering I remarked to Leo, "Wow, Denise looks more like YOUR mother than she does me." After that, our relationship soured. Apparently, he didn't like my observation. Was I wrong?

CREEPED OUT IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR CREEPED OUT: No. But you may have said it to the wrong person. You should have said it to your daughter, who may be doing it because she thinks Leo's mother has great taste. Denise could also be consciously or unconsciously doing this to please him.

There's an old song, "I Want a Girl Just Like the Girl That Married Dear Old Dad." Many men idealize their mothers, and it may be a reason why Leo still lives with his parents.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are empty nesters. We both work and live far from our kids and grandkids. I have wanted to move closer to them, but I also understand we need to meet our goals for a secure retirement.

The problem is, I'm lonely and I think my husband is, too. We work long hours and spend our weekends doing chores. My solution to help myself feel better is to get a dog. My husband, however, doesn't want one. He wants to wait until "later"—whenever that is. I think a pet would make me leave work earlier and force both of us to get out of the house. I know there are expenses involved, but I'm willing to make sacrifices.

Am I being unreasonable or silly? I want my husband to be a part of raising a pet and, perhaps, participate in some obedience training. I'm trying my best to persuade him without being a nag, but I'm beginning to feel like a little kid who's begging "Daddy" for a puppy. I'd appreciate some advice.

PINING FOR A PUPPY IN TEXAS

DEAR PINING: Before embarking on a "pet" project, don't you think you should first find out what may be causing your husband's behavior? While a dog could work wonders and help you both be more active, between his job and the weekend chores, taking a puppy to obedience training may be too much for him. If he's not up to it, would YOU be willing to shoulder that task—and the walking, feeding, grooming and cleaning up?

An energetic puppy can be a lot to handle. Would you consider adopting an older dog, or fostering one that needs a temporary home? I don't recommend bringing a dog into your lives unless your husband agrees. And if he doesn't, please consider volunteering a few days a month at an animal shelter or pet rescue kennel.

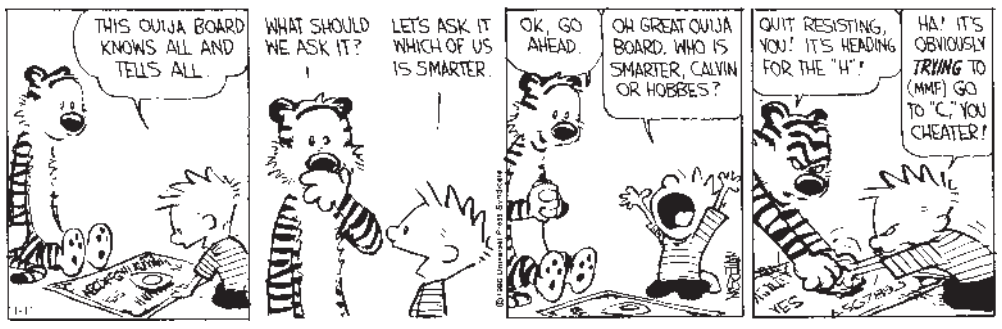
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


THIS OUIJA BOARD KNOWS ALL AND TELLS ALL.
WHAT SHOULD WE ASK IT?
LET'S ASK IT WHICH OF US IS SMARTER.
OK, GO AHEAD.
OH GREAT OUIJA BOARD. WHO IS SMARTER, CALVIN OR HOBBES?
QUIT RESISTING, YOU! IT'S HEADING FOR THE "H"!
HA! IT'S OBVIOUSLY TRYING TO (MMF) GO TO "C," YOU CHEATER!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

CATS ARE BETTER THAN DOGS
AND NOW TO PRESENT THE OTHER SIDE, HERE'S ODIE
HEY! NO PUPPY-DOG EYES!
JIM DAVIS 1-11
Distributed by Universal Uclick www.facebook.com/garfield
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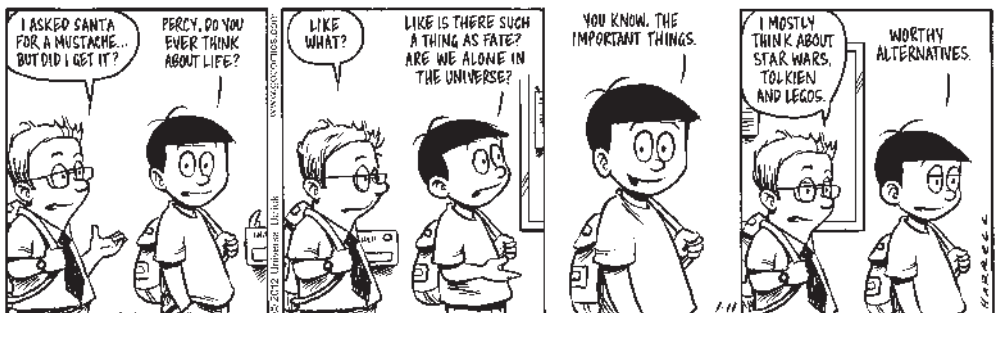
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I ASKED SANTA FOR A MUSTACHE... BUT DID I GET IT?
PERCY, DO YOU EVER THINK ABOUT LIFE?
LIKE WHAT?
LIKE IS THERE SUCH A THING AS FATE? ARE WE ALONE IN THE UNIVERSE?
YOU KNOW. THE IMPORTANT THINGS.
I MOSTLY THINK ABOUT STAR WARS, TOLKIEN AND LEGOS.
WORTHY ALTERNATIVES.
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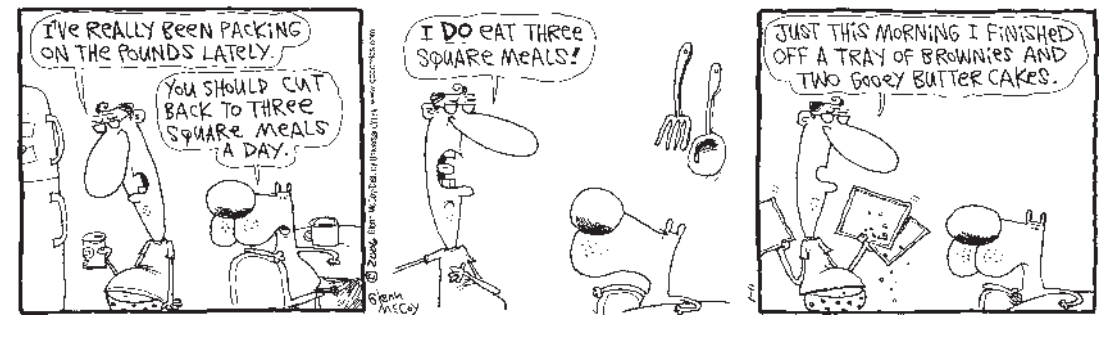
The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


I'VE REALLY BEEN PACKING ON THE POUNDS LATELY.
YOU SHOULD CUT BACK TO THREE SQUARE MEALS A DAY.
I DO EAT THREE SQUARE MEALS!
JUST THIS MORNING I FINISHED OFF A TRAY OF BROWNIES AND TWO GOOEY BUTTER CAKES.
© 2006 Tom McCoy/Distributed by Universal Uclick www.comics.com
Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

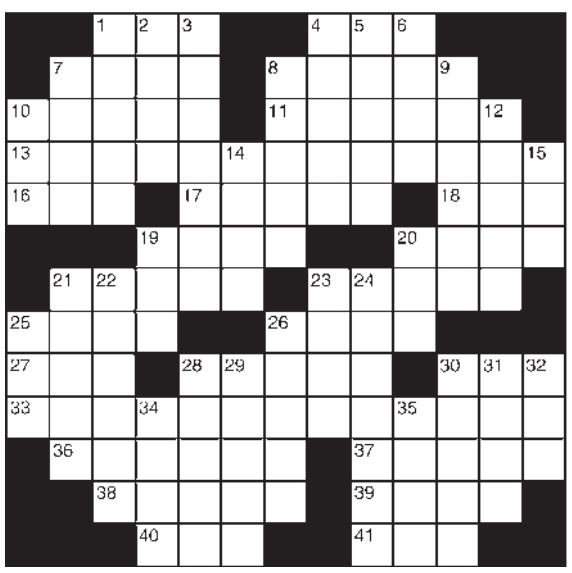
ACROSS
1 After-hours bank (Abbr.)
4 Bribe
7 Roundish hairstyle
8 Eye-related
10 Extrater-restrial
11 Lowest point
13 Does hard labor
16 Shelter
17 One with a burden
18 Wilde-beest
19 Pod dwellers
20 Appear
21 Get more ammo
23 Tooth buyer?
25 Vegan's no-no
26 Wall Street wheeler-dealers, for short
27 Ahs' mates
28 Prickly plant
30 Carnival city
33 Pecks
36 Do as you're told
37 August forecast
38 Out of bed
39 Belliger-ent god
40 Encoun-tered
41 Wife's address

DOWN
1 Blazing
2 "Star —"
3 Nessie, e.g.
4 Wheel radius
5 Playful water critter
6 Pocket bread
7 Lotion additive
8 Last write-ups
9 Eccentric old gent
10 Piercing tool
12 1-Across offering
14 Clay-rich soil
15 Wrigley product
19 Butter square
20 Family member, briefly
21 Place to recover
22 Spring holiday
23 Gratis
24 "—, Martin and John"
25 Larry's pal
26 "Ameri-can Idol" alumnus Clay
28 World-weary
29 Construc-tion connec-tor
30 Singer LeAnn
31 Eye part
32 Peculiar
34 Door-stop, often
35 "Perry Mason" star

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	L	P	S	■	P	S	I	■	S	J	H	S
L	I	F	U	■	R	A	M	■	C	I	I	P
S	E	L	L	■	O	F	F	C	O	L	O	R
O	F	F	I	I	N	F	■	L	U	S	T	Y
■	■	■	E	N	G	■	O	E	R	■	■	■
F	E	R	N	S	■	O	F	F	S	I	D	E
O	L	E	■	■	B	L	T	■	■	S	E	T
O	F	F	R	O	A	D	■	R	U	M	B	A
■	■	■	A	M	Y	■	O	A	R	■	■	■
H	A	I	T	I	■	O	F	F	B	E	A	T
O	F	F	S	T	A	G	E	■	A	N	N	E
P	A	S	O	■	I	R	V	■	N	I	T	S
I	R	O	N	■	D	E	C	■	C	D	I	T

Yesterday's answer 1-11



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Amanda Peet, 40; Mary J. Blige, 41; Kim Coles, 50; Naomi Judd, 66.

Happy Birthday: You'll have plenty of opportunity if you share your thoughts with someone who can use what you have to offer. Expanding your territory will ensure that you stay on top of your financial situation. It will be a hectic year, so gear up and get ready to burn the candle at both ends. Your numbers are 4, 10, 22, 26, 35, 42, 46.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Someone will try to make you look bad or unnerve you about the way you do things. Get your work done rather than retaliate. Spending time with someone you love will ease your stress and make you realize what's important. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't allow an emotional situation to stand in the way of your ability to learn, communicate and forge ahead educationally, professionally or where your philosophic beliefs are concerned. Stick to your ethical standards and values. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Use your imagination and you will find a way to get ahead professionally and stabilize your personal life as well. Hard work will pay off, and showing responsibility will put you in a controlling position. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Steer clear of unpredictable people. You have to avoid letting anyone push you around. Stick close to home and finish any unfinished chores or projects. Accomplishment will be your guide to a better future. Learn from experience. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Keep your life simple and your costs down. Don't feel obligated to pay for others or to show your love lavishly. Moderation and honesty will buy you respect and lead to opportunities. Domestic uncertainty will create an additional burden. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Share what you know and you'll be offered something special in return. A change of plans can result in a financial loss if you aren't willing to carry on regardless of what someone else decides to do. Don't give in to emotional blackmail. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Your peacemaking ability will come in handy. Get involved in a cause and you will be given the green light to move forward with an idea you suggest. Your confidence and courage will bring you support. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Stick to what you do best. Keep watch over your home, family and possessions. You can make great strides if you make a commitment to someone you love. Sort out your personal paperwork and move forward. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You'll be tempted to take on too much. Run your ideas by someone you trust before making a move or signing a contract that could become a burden. A change is needed, but it has to be within your means. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You've got greater control than you realize. Speak up and you'll be given the go-ahead to pursue your plans. A moneymaking deal is apparent, and a good investment will pay off. Keep the momentum going and you will succeed. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Good fortune will come to you in a mysterious way. A partnership will help you finally get over something you've been fighting. Romance is favored, and a serious promise will seal a deal that leads to greater happiness. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): What you do to help others will also help you. A partnership will help you infiltrate groups that have the potential to raise your profile. Opportunity will be the result of a good plan being expressed well and executed masterfully. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are responsible, open-minded and energetic. You are a serious and hopeful helper.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	5	1				8	6	
4			2		6			9
9			8					5
3			5					4
	7	9				3	1	
8			1					6
1			7					2
6			3		9			7
	3	4				5	9	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	7	6	9	4	1	2	3	5
4	9	5	6	3	2	1	7	8
2	3	1	7	8	5	4	9	6
3	4	7	8	5	9	6	1	2
6	1	8	3	2	7	9	5	4
5	2	9	4	1	6	3	8	7
9	8	4	5	6	3	7	2	1
7	5	2	1	9	4	8	6	3
1	6	3	2	7	8	5	4	9

Difficulty level ★★ 1/11

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

MARK McEWAN, CELEBRITY CHEF **Solution: 8 letters**

S	N	S	P	D	R	E	S	T	A	U	R	A	N	T
E	L	O	A	A	S	O	U	S	E	N	S	E	S	A
N	R	L	T	Z	S	C	D	T	A	S	T	E	T	C
I	A	A	I	L	Z	T	S	A	E	H	T	U	O	I
S	N	W	W	M	E	I	R	R	S	N	O	S	R	R
I	O	G	A	K	N	Z	P	I	O	S	S	S	E	B
U	T	I	R	R	O	O	A	L	E	V	A	I	T	B
C	N	F	V	E	D	O	D	H	C	S	A	B	L	A
K	O	I	L	A	D	S	C	A	A	E	T	L	M	F
R	R	E	N	O	N	I	N	T	L	R	S	Y	F	A
A	O	E	G	E	W	A	E	A	R	P	V	A	L	M
M	T	W	C	D	D	E	C	N	O	E	T	E	E	E
Y	A	U	N	I	U	S	R	H	T	S	A	A	S	R
B	A	A	A	E	P	J	S	S	E	S	L	T	E	T
S	S	N	Y	U	R	E	D	O	O	F	R	E	S	H

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Yesterday's Answer: Kingmakers

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

FOR SALE

Young female pig ready to be bred or roast-call to see - 322-0268 - Sow/bore on site

WANTED TO BUY

Looking for Continiental OnePass miles & Delta Skymiles. We pay cash. Call 888-2205

WHATZIT Solution:
All in a day's work

Computer Repair
Only $25 Minor Problem
WE ALSO FIX LAPTOP & USED PARTS
17" Monitor – FOR SALE
233-5641
Open: 7 Days a Week 9:00am - 9:00pm

Mariana Taxi Service is looking for:

(1) Taxi Operator

Minimum of 3 years experience
Have Commonwealth Taxi Bureau ID

All interested applicants please call 287-4546

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS
Job Vacancy No. 12-001

Opening Date: Wednesday, 01/04/12 Closing Date: Wednesday, 01/18/12

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS SPECIALIST

DUTIES: Under the overall supervision of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) or his or her designee, the incumbent's duties and responsibilities are as follows. May supervise lower level staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Performs paraprofessional accounting support activities to include: verifying fund balances and obligating expenditures; reviewing open accounts and contracts; editing, posting delinquency notices and disconnection lists; preparing service orders for termination of accounts; processing travel documents; maintaining subsidiary ledgers; and, processing and filing payroll documents. Generates, reviews, analyzes, edits and distributes a wide variety of reports. Establishes and maintains filing systems. Receives and responds to complex customer complaints. Handles travel arrangements; Preparing estimates for travel; Processing travel documents such as authorizations, travel voucher claims and advances; Providing accounting support during annual audits; Analyzing contract payables; Encoding travel liquidation, refunds and payroll allotments. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

LOCATION: *CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER DIVISION,* ***SAIPAN.***
POSITIONS: *Two (2).*
SALARY: $20,000 - $23,200.00 per annum, un-classified, un-graded.
CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: Associates Degree in Accounting or related field and three years of progressively responsible experience related to the area of assignment. Knowledge of: Supervisory principles; Basic budgeting principles; Basic accounting principles; Billing procedures; Basic mathematical concepts; Customer service principles; Banking procedures. Skill in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Providing customer service; Paying attention to detail in order to find errors; Performing basic mathematical calculations; Maintaining records; Preparing reports; Reconciling accounts and ledgers; Using a computer and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. APPLICANTS MAY BE TESTED.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the CUC Tinian or CUC Rota Administration Office.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS
Job Vacancy No. 12-002

Opening Date: Wednesday,01/04/12 Closing Date: Wednesday, 01/18/12

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS TECHNICIAN

DUTIES: Under the overall supervision of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) or his/her designee, the incumbent's duties and responsibilities are as follows. May supervise lower level staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Performs a wide variety of routine to moderate level fiscal support activities to include: verifying daily transactions processed by others; editing and posting daily transactions; preparing change fund at bank; preparing certification of completion of services; entering NSF checks; preparing billing cycles; reviewing tampered accounts; and, preparing billing adjustments. Generates, reviews and distributes reports. Maintains filing systems. Receives and responds to customer complaints. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

LOCATION: *CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER DIVISION,* ***SAIPAN.***
POSITIONS: *Two (2).*
SALARY: $17,282.00 - $19,425.00 per annum, un-classified, un-graded.
CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: High School Diploma, or G.E.D., and three years of bookkeeping or related fiscal support experience. Knowledge of: Supervisory principles; Basic bookkeeping principles; Office procedures, methods, and equipment; Keyboarding techniques; Basic mathematical concepts; Customer service principles; Banking procedures. Skill in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Providing customer service; Paying attention to detail in order to find errors; Performing basic mathematical calculations; Maintaining records; Keyboarding; Using standard office equipment; Tabulating, recording, and balancing transactions; Preparing routine reports; Using a computer and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. APPLICANTS MAY BE TESTED.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS
Job Vacancy No. 12-003

Opening Date: Wednesday 01/04/12 Closing Date: Wednesday 01/18/12

METER READER

DUTIES: The incumbent in this position will be under the direct supervision of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) or his or her designee. Responsibilities and duties include but are not limited to: Reads electric and water meters using a handheld device. Operates government vehicles; conducts basic vehicle inspections to ensure are in proper working order. Prepares and submits deficiency or problem reports on meters. Assists other departments in finding customer locations and with service verifications. Locates new customers and ensures customers are hooked up and added to the system. Perform meter change outs. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

LOCATION: *CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER DIVISION,* ***SAIPAN.***
POSITIONS: *Two (2).*
SALARY: $12,262.00 - $15,139.00 per annum, un-classified, un-graded.
CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma, or G.E.D., and two years work experience. Knowledge of: Customer service techniques; Basic mathematics. Skills in: Reading maps; Operating vehicles; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. APPLICANTS MAY BE TESTED.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS
JVA No. 12-004

Opening Date: Wednesday, 1/04/12 Closing Date: Wednesday, 1/18/12

TRADES TECHNICIAN

Duties: Under the overall supervision of the Chief Financial Officer or his/her designee. Provides direction to Trades Assistants to include assigning and monitoring tasks and providing direction. Performs journey level operations, installations and/or repairs in service area assigned. Inspects equipment and determines if any repairs are needed. Performs preventative maintenance in service area assigned. Maintains level of supplies and equipment. Performs investigations. Writes reports. Performs smoke test. Performs chlorine test. Performs utility meter tests. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG TESTING.

Location: *Chief Financial Officer,* ***SAIPAN.***
Salary: $16,000 to $17,282 per annum; un-classified; un-graded.
Position: Two (2).
Contract: Not contracted.

Minimum Requirements: High School Diploma, or GED, or ABE. Experience in wastewater trades duties: Performing maintenance and repairs on generators; Monitoring and performing preventive maintenance on sewer lines, manholes and lift stations; Taking treatment plant readings and performing adjustments; Troubleshooting and maintaining control panels. Experience in water trades duties: Operating reservoirs and distribution valves; Monitoring reservoir level and water levels; Responding to customer complaints; Installing, maintaining and repairing water lines; Monitoring chlorine gas in the water system; Installing and/or replacing water meters; Performing disconnects and reconnects. Experience in power distribution trades activities: Testing apparatus to ensure proper operating conditions on low and high voltage; Troubleshooting power failures. Knowledge of: Principles and procedures of service area assigned; Inspection and troubleshooting principles; Preventative maintenance principles; Inventory control principles; Basic mathematics. Skill in: Preparing daily reports; Preparing cost and materials estimates; Performing preventative maintenance; Performing journey level maintenance and installations in service area; Performing site inspections and recognizing problem areas; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. MUST HAVE A VALID CNMI DRIVER'S LICENSE.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the CUC Tinian or CUC Rota Administration Office.

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CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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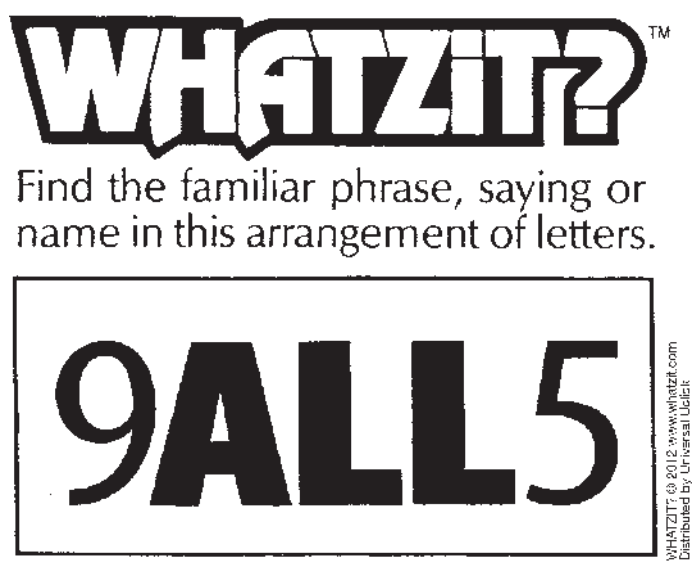

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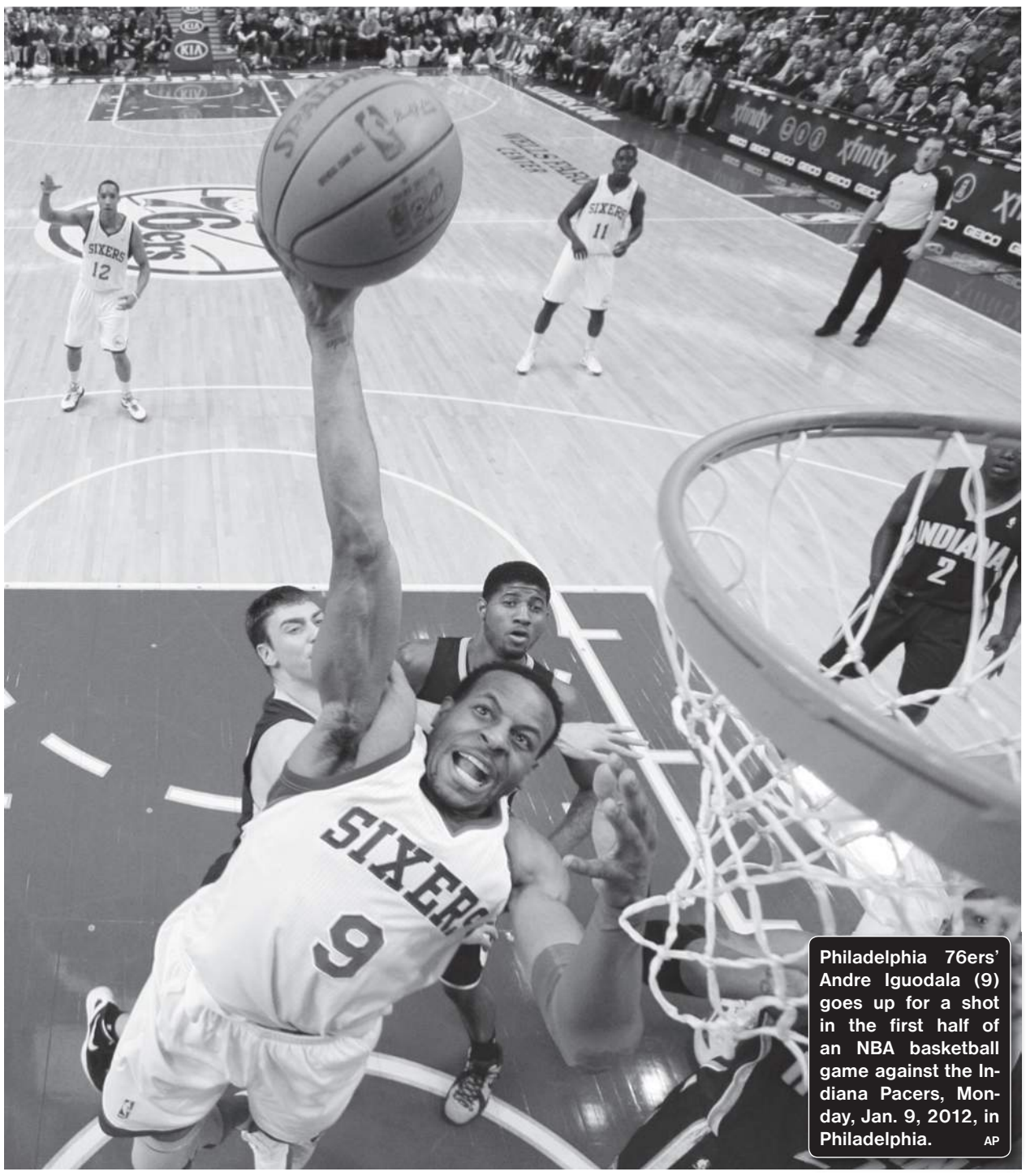
76ers beat Pacers for 5th straight win, 96-86



Philadelphia 76ers' Andre Iguodala (9) goes up for a shot in the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Indiana Pacers, Monday, Jan. 9, 2012, in Philadelphia. AP

PHILADELPHIA (AP)— Andre Iguodala scored 20 points and Lou Williams added 13 to help the Philadelphia 76ers win their fifth straight game, 96-86, over the Indiana Pacers on Monday night.

Led by Iguodala and a deep roster, the Sixers are dominating in the second half to turn close games into comfortable ones. Against the Pacers, it was a 15-3 run in the third quarter that helped them pull away. The Sixers used a 30-8 run in the third to beat Toronto on Saturday night.

The Sixers have made the most of their favorable home stretch, winning in Philly for the third time in four nights. After an off day Sunday, the Sixers played the first game of a three-night stretch, that includes Sacramento and Wednesday's game at New York.

Indiana's Danny Granger, averaging a team-high 14.9 points, sat out with food poisoning. Pacers guard George Hill (back) also did not play. Roy Hibbert led the Pacers with 19 points and David West had 15 points and 11 rebounds.

After spending most of the last few seasons out of the playoff picture, the Pacers and Sixers have emerged as two of the top up-and-coming teams in the Eastern Conference. Indiana (vs. Chicago) and Philadelphia (vs. Miami) both played competitive first-round playoff series a year ago against East favorites and more was expected out of them this season. It's early, but both teams are in the hunt for a division crown.

The Sixers are winning without any superstars, and entered with six players averaging 9.9 or more points. Sure enough, six players reached double figures against the Pacers and there was no one person for the Pacers to key on.

Nikola Vucevic hit a 3-pointer that capped the Sixers' 15-3 run in the third and gave them a 69-54 lead. Jrue Holiday got the lead back to double digits in the fourth with a 3 and help them win five straight for the first time since Jan. 31-Feb. 9, 2010.

The Sixers (6-2) are off to their best start since they went 10-0 in 2000-01.

Tyler Hansbrough scored 10 points for the Pacers. He was hit in an eye in the third quarter and did not return.

Sixers center Spencer Hawes started after suffering a strained back against Toronto and scored 12 points.

Hawes and Thaddeus Young went inside in the final minutes for a couple of clutch baskets that held off the scrappy Pacers. Williams forced a turnover and Iguodala went down and buried a 15-foot fadeway for a 94-84 lead. Hawes took a charge on the next possession and a small, but enthusiastic, crowd stood and applauded their first-place Sixers.

Darren Collison and Holiday, former teammates at UCLA, didn't have quite the epic showdown expected out of the young star guards. But both will have plenty of more chances as their teams blossom into threats in the East.

The Sixers reversed a 2 of 8 start with an 8 for 12 finish in the first quarter and stretched their lead to 45-40 at the half. The Sixers failed to keep a double-digit lead because of a general sloppiness that led to 11 turnovers.

Bulls 92, Pistons 68

In Chicago, the hosts beat Detroit for their 13th consecutive victory against the Pistons.

Carlos Boozer scored 23 points and Derrick Rose added 22 points and eight assists for Chicago, which bounced back from Saturday night's lackluster loss at Atlanta.

The Bulls improved to 4-1 during their first stretch of nine games in 12 days in 30 years. They play again each of the next two nights, hitting the road to face Minnesota on Tuesday before returning home to face Washington on Wednesday.

Greg Monroe had 14 points, 10 rebounds and six assists for Detroit, which has lost four straight games.

Hawks 106, Nets 101

In Newark, New Jersey, Josh Smith scored a season-high 26 points and the Hawks shot nearly 54 percent from the field in beating New Jersey for the third time this season.

Joe Johnson added 22 as the Hawks led for all but a few seconds in winning their third straight game overall.

Anthony Morrow had 20 points for the Nets, who remain winless in four games at home.

Hornets 94, Nuggets 81

In Denver, Carl Landry scored 21 points as New Orleans avenged a defeat three days earlier and beat Denver.

Chris Kaman added 20 for New Orleans, who led by eight at halftime and extended that to 15 in the third quarter.

Danilo Gallinari and Ty Lawson had 14 points each for Denver, which lost at home for the first time in five games. The Nuggets shot just 39 percent from the field and 35 percent from behind the 3-point line.

Knicks 91, Bobcats 87

In New York, Carmelo Anthony shook off a poor shooting night to make the tiebreaking basket with 2:39 remaining and New York held on to edge Charlotte.

Anthony scored 22 points, and Amare Stoudemire also shot poorly but had 25 points and 12 rebounds for the Knicks, who won their third straight since a humiliating home loss to the Bobcats last Wednesday.

Boris Diaw had 19 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists for Charlotte, which has dropped three in a row.

Raptors 97, Timberwolves 87

In Toronto, Andrea Bargnani matched his season-high with 31 points as Toronto downed Minnesota.

Amir Johnson had a season-high 19 points and 11 rebounds for the Raptors—his second straight double-double.

Jose Barea scored a season-high 16 points for Minnesota, which hasn't won in Toronto since 2003-04. The Raptors have won 14 of its past 15 games against the Timberwolves.

Barry Larkin elected to baseball Hall of Fame

NEW YORK (AP)— Barry Larkin was elected to baseball's Hall of Fame on Monday with plenty of room to spare.

The former Cincinnati Reds shortstop was chosen on 495 of 573 ballots (86 percent) in voting announced by the Baseball Writers' Association of America, well above the necessary 75 percent. Larkin was on the ballot for the third time after falling 75 votes short last year.

He will be inducted July 22 in Cooperstown along with the late Ron Santo, elected last month by the Veterans Committee.

"I am so humbled by the experience and so excited about being the newest member of the Hall of Fame," Larkin said on a conference call.

Playing from 1986-04—all with his hometown Reds—Larkin hit .295 with 198 home runs, 960 RBIs, 2,340 hits and 379 stolen bases. A 12-time All-Star, he won the 1995 NL MVP award, three Gold Gloves and the 1990 World Series. In 1996, he became the first shortstop to have 30 homers and 30 steals in a season.

In addition to his Little League, high school and college coaches, Larkin credited late Michigan football coach Bo Schembechler, who recruited him out of Cincinnati and then redshirted him as a freshman.

"I was a better football player than a baseball player at the time," Larkin said. "I just worked on my baseball talent, just that alone. That was an eye-opener because I got so much better."

Jack Morris was second with 382 votes (67 percent), missing by 48 votes on his 13th try but up sharply from 54 percent last year. The pitcher has two chances left on the BBWAA ballot, and no player has received such a high percentage without eventually gaining election.

Jeff Bagwell was third at 56 percent, followed by Lee Smith (51 percent), Tim Raines (49 percent), Alan Trammell (37 percent) and Edgar Martinez (37 percent).

Mark McGwire, 10th on the career home run list with 583, received 19.5 percent in his sixth try, down from 19.8 percent last year and 23.7 percent in 2010—a vote before he admitted using steroids and human growth hormone.

Bernie Williams received the most votes (55) among players who were eligible for the first time. Bill Mueller got just four votes and will be dropped in future years, along with Juan Gonzalez (23) and Vinny Castilla (six).

Next year's ballot figures to be the most controversial, with Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens, Sammy Sosa, Mike Piazza, Craig Biggio and Curt Schilling eligible for the first time.

Larkin got 52 percent when he appeared on the ballot for the first time in 2010. He received the largest single-year percentage increase to gain election since 1948, when pitcher Herb Pennock was elected with 77.7 percent, a year after finishing with 53.4 percent.

"That was really surprising. I don't know how things changed," Larkin said.

He is the 48th Hall of Famer who spent his entire career with one major league team and the third from the Reds, joining Johnny Bench and Bid McPhee.

Larkin broadcast for MLB Network from 2009-10, then moved to ESPN last year. He's a spring training instructor for the Reds, and has gone to South Korea and Brazil as an envoy for Major League Baseball and the State Department.

Rafael Palmeiro, among just four players with 500 homers and 3,000 hits along with Hank Aaron, Willie Mays and Eddie Murray, got 72 votes and his percentage increased to 12.6 from 11 last year in his first appearance. Palmeiro received a 10-day suspension in 2005 for a positive test for performance-enhancing drugs, claiming it was due to a vitamin vial given to him by teammate Miguel Tejada.

Gonzalez, a two-time AL MVP implicated by Jose Canseco in steroids use, received 30 votes last year, just above the 5 percent threshold for remaining on the ballot.

In 2014, the focus will turn to elite pitchers when Greg Maddux (355 wins) and Tom Glavine (305) become eligible. Among pitchers eligible for the Hall, all 20 of the 300-game winners are in.

Morris finished with 254 victories and was the winningest pitcher of the 1980s. A postseason star, he was the ace of three World Series winners but is burdened by a 3.90 career ERA.

Stricker opens the year with a win in Hawaii

KAPALUA, Hawaii (AP)—Steve Stricker has a bad habit of losing big leads. He managed to slip back into his old habit of winning.

Despite losing most of his five-shot lead in only six holes, Stricker steadied himself in time to kick off the new PGA Tour season with a three-shot victory in the Tournament of Champions on Monday.

Right when it looked as though Stricker was coming unglued, he made back-to-back birdies at the turn. That restored his lead to three shots, and no one got closer than two shots the rest of the way.

Stricker birdied his last hole for a 4-under 69 for his 12th career win, which moved him to No. 5 in the world ranking.

Sweeter than the winner's lei draped around his neck on the 18th green at Kapalua were his two children, 13-year-old Bobbi Maria and 5-year-old Isabella, there to greet him with a hug.

Stricker held back tears—they usually flow freely after a win—perhaps a sign that he's getting used to this business of winning. It was his ninth PGA Tour win since he turned 40, and his eighth title in his last 50 tournaments.

As usual, he didn't make it easy on himself.

Stricker had a five-shot lead going into the Monday finish on Maui, and it was just about gone when he muffed a flop shot and took bogey on the sixth hole.

Martin Laird, Webb Simpson and Jonathan Byrd each got within one shot of Stricker on the front nine, but not for long. Stricker rolled in a 25-foot birdie putt on the par-3 eighth, pitched to tap-in range at the par-5 ninth and was on his way.

Laird closed with a 67, and his birdie on the last hole put him alone in second place. Byrd kept most of the pressure on Stricker along the back nine of the Plantation Course, but he bogeyed the 17th. He had a 68 and tied for third with Simpson, who had a 68.

Stricker could not have started the new season better—all four rounds in the 60s, and already able to book his room at Kapalua for next year.

"It was tough," said Stricker, who finished at 23-under 269. "I never let up today. It's always tough trying to win, and it's even more tough when you have a lead like I did. I'm very proud of what I did today.

"And it's always cool to get a hug from your family walking off at the end."

The PGA Tour got off to a good start, too. There was so much focus at the start of the week on who didn't show up at Kapalua for this winners-only event—three major champions, all of whom live overseas, along with three players who are recovering from injury.

Stricker was the highest-ranked American in the field, and played the best golf.

It just didn't always look that way.

This was the fourth time in the last two years that Stricker led a big lead turn into some nervous moments on the last day.

■ At the John Deere Classic in July, he watched a five-shot lead with nine holes to play turn into a two-shot deficit with two holes to play before he rallied to beat Kyle Stanley with an exquisite birdie on the last hole.

■ At the Memorial in June, he had a four-shot lead at the turn and was still three shots clear with five to play. He held on to win by one.

■ At Riviera in 2010, his six-shot lead going into the final round was down to two shots after only six holes. Stricker steadied himself and went on to win by two.

Monday on Maui was not much different.

Byrd made three straight putts early in the round, two of them for birdie, and Simpson in the group ahead made an eagle at No. 5. Stricker settle for pars, which was not a problem as long as he took care of the birdie holes.

But he didn't. Stricker three-putted for par from just over 30 feet on the fifth, then hit a fluffy pitch that came up short of the sixth green and let to bogey as Byrd made another birdie for a two-shot swing.

Stricker stood at the back of the green while Byrd was making his putt, shaking his head, clearly flustered. It only took six holes for his five-shot lead to shrink to a single stroke, with 12 holes ahead of him. His next birdie putt didn't even come close.

But on the hole that has given him fits this week, Stricker hit a pure shot into 25 feet on the par-3 eighth and made it for birdie, then birdied the ninth to regain control.

Byrd made the last big run at him by hitting a wedge to 4 feet on the 16th. Stricker followed him with a wedge into 2 feet for matching birdies that kept his lead at two shots with two holes to play.

Steve Stricker holds up his trophy after winning the Hyundai Tournament of Champions PGA Tour golf tournament in Kapalua, Hawaii, Monday, Jan. 9, 2012.

AP

Chiefs pick Crennel as head coach

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—The Kansas City Chiefs made Romeo Crennel the permanent head coach on Monday after he led the floundering team to a pair of wins late in the season.

Crennel had been the interim coach and the leading candidate to replace Todd Haley, who was fired last month. He was scheduled to be introduced at an afternoon news conference.

"We are very excited to name Romeo the new head coach of the Chiefs," Chiefs CEO Clark Hunt said in a prepared statement. "In 30 years as a coach in the National Football League, Romeo has established an outstanding track record of success, and we believe his experience and proven ability make him the best person to help us reach our goal of consistently competing for championships."

The former head coach of the Cleveland Browns, Crennel had been serving as defensive coordinator when general manager Scott Pioli made him the interim coach. He quickly united a disjointed locker room and instantly endeared himself to fans in Kansas City, leading a team that had been ransacked by injuries over Green Bay, the Packers' only loss this season.

Crennel's lone defeat came in overtime against Oakland, which knocked the Chiefs (7-9) from playoff contention. But he rallied his team to a season-ending victory over the Broncos, after which players spontaneously began to chant his name in the locker room in Denver.

"Romeo's vast experience and intelligence have helped him achieve success at the highest level," Pioli said. "The way in which he creates accountability and respect amongst the team creates a very productive work environment and will be critical in continuing to develop our young core of players."

Crennel was considered the front-runner to get the full-time job not only because of his work over the final three weeks of the season, but because of his calm demeanor and strong ties to Pioli, whom he worked with during his days running the New England Patriots defense.

"I have a deep appreciation for the vision that Clark Hunt has and his commitment to building a championship-caliber team," Crennel said. "I believe in the types of players that we are trying to win with and the identity we are trying to create."

Pioli also spoke to former Tennessee coach Jeff Fisher, Packers offensive coordinator Joe Philbin and former Jacksonville coach Jack Del Rio before settling on the in-house candidate.

"It is a rare opportunity to be a part of an organization like the Kansas City Chiefs with its storied history and passionate fans," Crennel said, "and I am eager to get to work and bring this franchise and our fans the success they deserve."

Crennel went 24-40 during four years in Cleveland, though the record is somewhat misleading.

He took over a suffering franchise short on talent and went 6-10 and 4-12 in his first two seasons, missing the playoffs each year. But his breakthrough came in 2007, when the Browns went 10-6 and fell just short of the playoffs, earning Crennel a two-year contract extension.

After falling back to 4-12, though, the affable Crennel was summarily fired.

He figures to have a much better chance of success in Kansas City, where Pioli has locked up several young players to long-term deals and continues to overhaul an aging roster.

The Chiefs should be the favorites to win the wide-open AFC West next year. They nearly claimed a second straight division crown despite losing several star players to season-ending injuries.

Tight end Tony Moeaki, All-Pro running back Jamaal Charles and Pro Bowl safety Eric Berry were lost to knee injuries by the second week of the season. Pro Bowl quarterback Matt Cassel joined them on injured reserve in Week 10 after he hurt his throwing hand in a game against Denver.

That left the team in the hands of journeyman Tyler Palko. The Chiefs claimed quarterback Kyle Orton off waivers from Denver, but he hurt his hand on the first pass he attempted against Chicago, and did not return until the final three weeks of the regular season.

By that time, Haley had been fired and Crennel had been given the reins.

"Throughout the year, we were all over a little bit. We came to a common ground over the last three weeks," said fullback Le'Ron McClain, who is a free agent but has said he hopes to return to the team next season. "We started doing good when Romeo stepped in."

Fisher reportedly spoke briefly with the Chiefs about the head coaching job, but he's expected to decide between St. Louis and Miami. Philbin also was linked to the job, and Del Rio's agent, Phil DePicciotto, had conversations with the Chiefs about the former Jaguars coach taking over.

Crennel will likely have to hire a defensive coordinator to replace himself, and also could be in the market for a new offensive coordinator.

The Chiefs struggled to move the ball under longtime assistant Bill Muir, who was in his first season as a coordinator. Muir has been contemplating retirement.

"Trying to put a staff together is a tough deal, because maybe the guys you want aren't available, so you have to look other places. You end up trying to do the best you can, getting the best guys you get," Crennel said. "You have to adapt and adjust as you go along."

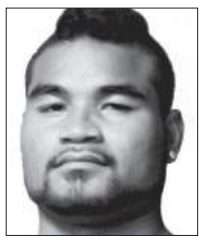
Fitial not LFC heavyweight champ

Legend Fighting Championship recently wrote to *Saipan Tribune* and clarified that current Pacific Xtreme Championship heavyweight titleholder Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial is not the Legend FC heavyweight champion.

In an email from the mixed martial arts fights promotions company's Mike Haskamp, he said although the Marianas Elite front man won against South Korea's "Hungry" Hae Jun Yang in their September 2010 bout in Legend FC 3, the matchup was a non-title bout despite it being the main event.

It will be recalled that Fitial bested the Team Busan MAD fighter at 3:16 of the first round by technical knockout due to punches.

The Fitial-Yang fight marked Legend FC's very first heavyweight match. Legend FC focuses on fighters born and raised exclusively in the Asia-Pacific region.


Fitial

The majority of these athletes compete at lighter weight classes, thus making it a challenge for Legend FC to confirm another definite appearance for Fitial any time soon.

Although they are interested in inviting Fitial back for another fight, it is difficult for them to land him a worthy opponent.

Fitial, who is also Trench Tech's People's Champ, in an earlier interview said he is mum on his next move, but says he is waiting to hear offers after beating Roque Martinez for the PXC heavyweight championship belt in Manila, Philippines in March 2011. ***(Walter Cepeda Sutherland)***

ALABAMA

From Page 28

tory of the BCS, relying on Jeremy Shelley's right leg for most of the points—he made a bowl record-tying five field goals—and letting its defense do the rest. It was the Tide's second BCS title in three years.

"That was the message before the game: to finish," coach Nick Saban said. "In fact, it was how bad do you want to finish? We certainly didn't play a perfect game, we got a field goal blocked, we couldn't find the end zone for a long time, but we just kept playing."

While only crimson-clad fans will remember this as a thing of beauty, Alabama (12-1) erased any doubts that it deserved to be in the title game over another one-loss team like Oklahoma State or Stanford.

Then again, one of those teams might have actually scored a touchdown before Alabama finally did, with 4:36 left in the game, long after fans may have flipped to something more entertaining than a one-sided kicking contest. Amazingly, these Southeastern Conference powerhouses played twice in a span of about two months, and never came that close to one of those things that's worth six points—you know, touchdowns—until Trent Richardson broke off a 34-yard run with 4:36 remaining.

It only took 115 minutes, 34 seconds, plus an overtime period in their first meeting.

LSU (13-1) had beaten eight ranked teams—including Alabama in early November—to establish itself as the clear No. 1 going into the bowls, but the Tigers crossed midfield only once in the sequel to the Game of the Century in Tuscaloosa. Instead of putting up a "Godfather II," this one was more akin to "Speed 2."

The Tigers were outgained 384-92 in total yards, managed a puny five first downs and didn't cross the 50 until there were just 8 minutes left. From there, they went back, back, back—the last gasp ending appropriately with beleaguered quarterback Jordan Jefferson getting the ball knocked from his hand before he could even get off a fourth-and-forever pass.

The BCS title belongs to Saban, who is carving out quite a legacy of his own at the school that still worships Bear Bryant as if he just retired yesterday. The Associated Press likely will follow suit by bestowing the title on the Tide when its poll comes out early Tuesday, given the dominance of Alabama's performance.

"We didn't do a lot different," Saban said. "We did some things on offense formationally. Our offensive team did a great job. Defensively, we just played well, played the box. Our special teams did a great job."

He has won a pair of BCS titles at Alabama, plus another at LSU in 2003. He's the first coach to win three BCS titles, denying LSU's Les Miles his second championship. The Tigers will have to settle for the SEC title, but that's not likely to ease the sting of this ugly performance.

Back on Nov. 5 at Bryant-Denny Stadium, Alabama held the top spot in the first matchup between the 1-2 teams. The Tigers pulled off a 9-6 victory in overtime, kicking three field goals while the Crimson Tide missed four of its six attempts.

OK, so maybe that wasn't a classic. But it was downright thrilling compared to the rematch, the first time in the BCS that teams played for the title after meeting during the regular season.

Credit the Alabama defense for that.

Led by dominating linebackers Courtney Hightower and Dont'a Hightower, LSU simply couldn't do anything—running or passing. Kenny Hilliard led the Tigers with 16 yards rushing, while Jefferson was 11 of 17 passing for 53 yards, usually hurrying away passes before he was sent tumbling to the Superdome turf. He was sacked four times and threw a mystifying interception when he attempted to flip away a desperation pass, only to have it picked off because his intended receiver had already turned upfield looking to block.

A.J. McCarron was the offensive MVP, completing 23 of 34 passes for 234 yards. Richardson added 96 yards on 20 carries. But an even bigger cheer went up when the defensive award was presented to Upshaw, who had seven tackles, including a sack, and spent a good part of his night in the LSU backfield.

"This defense is built on stopping them, and that's what we did," Upshaw said. "We wanted to come out and show the world we beat ourselves the first game. We wanted to come out and dominate from start to finish, and that's what we did."

With the way his defense was playing, McCarron simply had to avoid mistakes and guide the offense into field-goal range. He did that to perfection.

"When you have a great offensive line like I have, and great players around you, it makes your job easy as quarterback," McCarron said. "I've got to give all the credit to them. I wish I could have the whole team up here."

Miles said the rematch would be another display of "big-boy" football, and that was apparent on the opening kickoff and first play from scrimmage. Morris Claiborne was clotheslined by Alabama's Trey Depriest on the return, then Michael Ford was sent flying by Damion Square and Jesse Williams on a 2-yard run that immediately set the tone.

But this time, the special teams went Alabama's way. Marquis Maze dealt the first big blow for the Crimson Tide with a 49-yard punt return midway through the opening quarter, and he might've gone all the way to the end zone if not for a leg injury that forced him to pull up. Punter Brad Wing was the only defender left to beat, but Maze had to hobble out of bounds.

McCarron completed a 16-yard pass to Darius Hanks at the LSU 10, setting up Shelley's 23-yard chip shot field goal. If nothing else, Alabama had accomplished one of its goals coming into the game: to at least get close enough to the end zone for its embattled kickers to have a better chance of converting.

In the first meeting, Shelley and Cade Foster combined to miss four field goals - all of them from at least 44 yards.

In the do-over, Foster stayed on the sideline while Shelley also connected from 34, 41, 35 and 44 yards. Not that it was a flawless kicking performance. Shelley had another kick blocked and pushed another wide right, attempting a bowl-record seven field goals overall.

In addition, he missed the extra point after Richardson's touchdown.

It didn't matter.

The Alabama defense made sure of that.

"The whole defense is the MVP," Upshaw said. "The whole defense. Roll Tide baby. Roll Tide!"

LSU's best weapon was Wing, who averaged nearly 46 yards on nine punts. That was about the only highlight for the purple and gold, which failed to match its BCS title game victories in 2003 and 2007, the last two times the game was played in New Orleans, about 80 miles from its Baton Rouge campus.

"We couldn't sustain any consistency," Miles said. "The calls became much more difficult."

Miles never considered switching to backup quarterback Jarrett Lee, who started the first eight games for the Tigers—four of those while Jefferson was serving a suspension for his involvement in a bar fight.

"We felt like with Jefferson's feet and the ability to get out of the rush, that it was fair that he finished," Miles said. "He certainly had a tremendously strong year in any regard. Boy, we wanted to finish this one. It's hard to finish a season that was so successful this way."

BAMA

From Page 28

21-0 victory Monday night that earned Alabama its second BCS championship in three years.

"I'll tell you what, our defense controlled the tempo of this game," Crimson Tide coach Nick Saban said. "It was just a great team win. Every guy here, every fan that we have."

It was the first shutout in the history of the BCS title game, and the first blanking of the Tigers since 2002, when Alabama beat them 31-0 in Baton Rouge.

That was back when Saban was roaming the Tigers' sideline. The defensive-minded coach was on the other side this time, drawing up a game plan for Alabama that downright flummoxed LSU coach Les Miles, quarterback Jordan Jefferson and everyone else in the Superdome wearing purple and yellow.

The Crimson Tide didn't allow the Tigers to convert a third down until the fourth quarter, and didn't allow a snap in its own territory until there was 7:30 left in the game.

Of course, Alabama linebacker Dont'a Hightower promptly sacked Jefferson to force a fumble that was recovered by his good buddy Nick Gentry. The way things were going for the Tigers, it was a fitting way for their best offensive series of the night to end.

Trent Richardson added a touchdown run moments later to seal the victory, the only touchdown scored by either team in two meetings this season.

"We knew they were going to come out and try to run the ball against us," Upshaw said. "It's great to get the win. We really didn't call many blitzes. We were just hoping to contain them."

Contain them? How about downright dominating them, from start to finish.

Upshaw made a pair of stellar tackles at the line of scrimmage to force 3-and-out on LSU's second possession, and Mosley and cornerback Dre Kirkpatrick did so again on its next possession.

Miles, stubbornly sticking with Jefferson at quarterback, tried all night to get to the edge against the Crimson Tide's brutish defense. But each time, an Alabama cornerback or safety would fly to the ball, throwing his body at the running back or receiver with total abandon.

"We just wanted to come out and make a statement to the world, to everybody and to each other and LSU, that we are the best defense," linebacker Nico Johnson said. "It was no fluke."

Even after halftime, when the Tigers generally get things going—they outscored opponents 264-61 after the break coming into the game—the Alabama defense was there to keep the momentum.

After LSU got its second first down of the night, Upshaw managed to wrestle Jefferson down for a sack, and two plays later LSU had to send punter Brad Wing out onto the field again.

"The game plan was to spread them out," Jefferson said. "I didn't imagine it this way. I definitely didn't see it this way, but situations like this happen. ... Some defenses will have your number and Alabama had our number."

Just about the only bleak moment for the Crimson Tide came later in the third quarter, when Mosley intercepted an errant shovel pass deep in LSU territory. He was returning the ball when he was tugged to the ground by Jefferson, his leg twisting at a gruesome angle.

The sophomore linebacker was eventually taken from the field by motorized cart.

Jefferson wound up 11 of 17 for 53 yards, while the LSU offense managed just 92 yards of total offense. Only 39 of that was on the ground, even below the 45.8 average that the Crimson Tide had allowed against Football Bowl Subdivision teams since to last year's Capital One Bowl.

"Toward the end, I could definitely tell they didn't want to play against us any longer," Tide defensive end Jesse Williams said. "It was sort of like the light at the end of the tunnel."

SHELLEY

From Page 28

(2002 Music City Bowl).

"I haven't hit a game-winner since I've been here," Shelley said. "Hitting five in a game like this, it's unbelievable. I can't imagine anything being better."

A block, a miss, and a botched extra point turned into mere footnotes for Shelley this time, instead of an agonizing legacy.

Normally the short-yardage kicker, Shelley eased into the night with a chip shot. That surely elicited a small sigh of relief for Alabama fans fearing that special teams might be LSU's biggest advantage in the game.

"That first one was the most nerve-racking," Shelley said. "Once I hit that first one, I was like, `All right, let's keep this going.'"

Foster, who had insisted days earlier he relished the chance at the big kick, lined up for a 49-yarder in the second quarter. Instead, it was a fake.

Quarterback A.J. McCarron, the holder, flipped the ball to Chris Underwood to convert a fourth-and-4. Three plays later, Shelley's 42-yarder was blocked, almost prompting fears that this one, too, could turn into another kicking disaster.

Far from it.

Ever since that night, Foster's teammates and coach Nick Saban defended him, noting that the offense kept stalling and forcing long, low-percentage attempts against LSU.

"We did get them a lot closer this time," left tackle Barrett Jones said.

On Monday night, there was still reason for concern.

McCarron, chosen as offensive MVP, passed for 234 yards and was able to sustain drives if not finish them off.

Heisman Trophy finalist Trent Richardson ran for 96 yards, but didn't break free until a 34-yard touchdown with 4:36 left, for the only touchdown by either team in eight quarters and an overtime period against each other this season.

By then, Shelley already had matters in hand.

"Jeremy did a great job," Saban said. "We've got lots of confidence in Jeremy."

Back-to-back for Omechelang

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

2011 SBA/Budweiser Queen of the Lanes Gloria Omechelang is flanked by runner-up Yho Villavicencio, right, and Carol McKenzie during a group photo after the season-ending competition last Sunday at the Capitol Bowling Center.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

It's two in a row for Gloria Omechelang.

Omechelang ruled last Sunday's 2011 Saipan Bowling Association /Budweiser Queen of the Lanes Tournament to successfully defend the championship she won in 2010.

The back-to-back champion prevailed over Yho Villavicencio and Carol McKenzie in the stepladder finals to top the season-ending competition held at the Capitol Bowling Center.

A third place finish in the eight-game elimination round put Omechelang in the stepladder finals. She collected 1,271 pinfalls and averaged 158.88 in eight games. She was consistent in the first four games, knocking 150-plus pinfalls (155, 158, 169, 159) and after a meltdown in Game 5 (122 pinfalls), she finished strong in the last three games, tallying 180, 191, and 147, to secure a spot in the next round.

Villavicencio dominated the eight-game elimination with her 1,372 pinfalls and average of 171.50. She had the second highest score in a single game (191 in Game 6), logged her lowest output in Game 5 (138), and posted 160 to 180 plus pinfalls in six other games (183, 179, 174, 184, 163, and 160).

With Villavicencio placing first in the 10-kegler elimination, she automatically advanced to the finals and waited for the winner of the playoff game between Omechelang and McKenzie.

McKenzie made it to the stepladder finals after a runner-up finish in the elimination round where she carded 1,298 pinfalls. McKenzie was the lone bowler to knock down more than 200 pins in a single game (214 in Game 2) to go with her 146, 154, 160, 181, 137, 161, and 145 for an average of 162.25 pinfalls.

In the stepladder finals, McKenzie ran out of steam, allowing Omechelang to nail a 143-128 win and set up a finals rematch against Villavicencio. In the 2010 finale, Omechelang and Villavicencio had a face-off with the former having a twice-to-beat advantage and prevailing right away in Game 1, 170-134, to secure the championship.

In the 2011 finale, tables were turned with Villavicencio owning the twice-to-beat edge. However, Omechelang overcame the advantage and won two games to steal the championship. Omechelang won Game 1 by 12 pinfalls, 187-175, to force a rubber match and completed the come-from-behind victory with a 153-121 triumph in Game 2. By the end of the finals, Omechelang earned 340 pinfalls, 44 pinfalls more than Villavicencio's total (296).

Meanwhile, other female keglers who joined the season-ending finale were Mel Regis (1,223 pinfalls), Lala Taitano (1,204), Ron Cal (1,201), Diane Chong (1,156), Gigi Zapanta (1,147), Tess Fabie (1,091), and Myrna Santos (1,050).

Upset in Prince of the Lanes finale

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

John Taisacan stunned not only one, but two favored opponents to reign supreme in the season-ending 2011 Saipan Bowling Association-Fiji Water Prince/ Princess of the Lanes Tournament last Sunday at the Capitol Bowling Center.

Taisacan, who won only one monthly roll-off in 2011 (November), eked out surprise victories in the stepladder finals over M.J. Aldan and Marion McKenzie, who were picked to duke it out for the 2011 title after claiming multiple monthly plums last year. McKenzie prevailed in the monthly roll-off from May to July, October, and December, while Aldan ruled the event from January to April, August, and September.

The three youth keglers advanced to the stepladder finals after placing in the Top 3 in he six-game elimination round. McKenzie topped the qualifier with his 932 pinfalls, built on his 154, 223, and 129 in the first three games and 150, 134, and 142 in the last three for a 155.33 average. Aldan came in next with a six-game total of 854 pinfalls and average of 140.83. Aldan had his best showing in Game 1, knocking down 157 pins and then recorded 116, 142, 140, 146, and 144 in the last five games.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

2011 SBA/Fiji Water Prince of the Lanes John Taisacan poses for a photo after beating Marion McKenzie in the season-ending competition last Sunday at the Capitol Bowling Center.

Taisacan was the last bowler to secure a ticket in the stepladder finals after collecting 825 pinfalls in six games. He recorded 140-plus pinfalls in the first four games (140, 143, 140, and 147) and closed out the qualifier with 134 and 121 pinfalls in Games 5 and 6 for an average of 137.50 pinfalls.

With Taisacan placing only third in the qualifier, he had to play in the first round of the playoffs against Aldan, while McKenzie gained an outright championship berth. Taisacan went on to pull off a nail-biter against the highly-favored Aldan, 152-151, to march into the championship round against McKenzie.

In the finals, McKenzie needed to win only once to stop Taisacan's upset bid. However, the underdog bowler continued his strong showing and eked out another thriller, 213-212, to send the finals to a deciding Game 2. Taisacan then rode on the momentum he gained in Game 1 to notch a convincing 191-162 win and dethrone McKenzie, who won the 2010 title against Aldan.

In the finals, Taisacan had a two-game total of 404 pinfalls, while McKenzie had only 374 to settle for the bridesmaid finish this time. Aldan dropped to third, failing to take the championship for the third straight year.

Two other bowlers joined the season-ending event for U18 keglers. Marion's younger brother, Marcel placed fourth in the qualifier with his six-game total of 703 pinfalls and average of 117.17, while Ryan Batac came in last with 671 and average of 111.83.

Minor stuns top-seeded foe in Australia

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Thea Minor caught a big fish in Australia after pulling off an upset over the top-ranked player in the girls U16 singles event of the 2012 Australia Post Margaret Court Cup last Monday.

Minor swept No. 1 seed Marta Brzozowska of Victoria at the Wodonga Tennis Centre, 6-1, 6-3, to advance to the semifinals of the 12-player draw. The victory was the second in a row for the CNMI junior player, as she also prevailed over New South Wales' Sarah Mitchell in straight sets, 6-1, 6-0, during the opening round match last Sunday. The 16-year-old Brzozowska drew a bye in the opening round and could not get her game going against Minor.

The twin wins put Minor in a semis duel against doubles teammate Annie Shannon of Fiji. Shannon went on to stop Minor's winning streak. The Fiji netter took the first set easily, 6-3, but Minor gave her a good fight in the second set before losing, 5-7, after almost two hours of play.

Minor was then forced to play in the battle for third place against fourth-ranked Isabella Spring yesterday and dropped another heartbreaker. Spring won the first set, 6-4, but Minor came back big in the second set with a 6-2 triumph. The third set was a back-and-forth match with Minor running out of gas and losing the extended duel, 8-10.

Meanwhile, Minor and Shannon were undefeated after three games and are favored to top the girls U16 doubles.

The Oceania ITF Touring Team members were first pitted against Brzozowska and New South Wales' Lauren Smileski last Monday and prevailed via walkover. Next up for the visiting pair were fellow Touring Team players Alesi Molotii of Tuvalu and Lorish Puluspene of Papua New Guinea and Minor and Shannon emerged victorious in three sets, 3-6, 6-2, 11-9.

Minor and Shannon's second match was played at 4pm last Monday and lasted for one and a half hour. Then less than an hour after getting their second win, the CNMI-Fiji team dueled Victoria's Priscilla Dawson and Julia Stutsel and won after only one hour and 13 minutes, 6-2, 6-2.

Only five pairs are entered in the girls U16 doubles and Minor and Shannon were scheduled to play their last game in the round-robin tournament against New Caledonia's Assaya Trimari and Spring yesterday afternoon. Results of that match were unavailable at press time, but a win would have given Shannon and Minor the doubles championship.

Also scheduled to be played yesterday was the U16 singles title match between Shannon and Molotii.

3 secure December awards

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Three more athletes earned invitations to next month's NMASA Awards Banquet after winning the last monthly awards for the 2011 season.

The list includes tennis' Negahr Rastguiy, athletics' Beo Ngirchongor, and basketball's Pete Iguel, who were named top athletes for December during the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association meeting last week at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Iguel

Rastguiy

Ngirchongor

Rastguiy took the Female Student Athlete of the Month for her notable performance in three tournaments in New Zealand, while Beo Ngirchongor was given the same award for U18 male athletes after ruling the 2011 NMA All Schools Cross Country Championship. Iguel secured the Male Athlete of the Month for winning the Finals MVP award and leading DFS Galleria to a title victory against PSS/McGraw-Hill in the Shirley's caging.

Rastguiy first played in the 2011 Waikato Christmas Junior Open in Hamilton and made it to the semifinals of the girls U12 singles and quarterfinals of the doubles events. Then from Hamilton, the Whispering Palms student traveled to Gisborne for the 2010 Poverty Bay East Coast Junior Open where she competed in the girls U14 singles finals. Rastguiy's last tournament in New Zealand was the Tennis Auckland 2011 Christmas Junior Tournaments where she also played in the girls U12 finals.

Ngirchongor faltered in the first two series of the boys U18 race, but saved his best for last to top the championship event. He defeated rival and fellow Marianas High School runner Michael Mancao in a sprint to the finish line at the American Memorial Park to rule the age group and give the Dolphins another win in the annual competition.

Iguel was one of the top scorers in the regular season of the Shirley's caging, averaging close to 30 points per game. After the round-robin regular season, the CNMI National Team member gave DFS a 7-2 record for second place in the 10-team field. Then in the finals, Iguel sizzled for 28 big points, powering DFS to a 91-63 win over PSS.

The three December winners will be receiving their awards on Feb. 16 during the 2011 NMASA Awards Banquet at the Saipan Grand Hotel, joining other awardees from January to November. From the monthly winners, NMASA selected the recipients of the Male and Female Athletes of the Year and the Tan Siu Lin Foundation/NMASA Male and Female Student Athletes of the Year. NMASA will also hand out awards to the Coach of the Year, Administrator of the Year, and Team of the Year.

76ers beat Pacers for 5th straight win, 96-86
PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Back-to-back for Omechelang
PAGE 25

Alabama beats LSU for BCS title

» Crimson Tide blanks Bayou Tigers, 21-0

By PAUL NEWBERRY
AP NATIONAL WRITER

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—The Rematch of the Century, it wasn't. For Alabama, it was good enough for No. 1, if not a lot of style points.

The Crimson Tide romped to another BCS championship against top-ranked LSU with a smothering defensive performance Monday night, a numbing barrage of field goals and even a long-overdue trip to the end zone. Final score: 21-0.

No. 2 Alabama posted the first shutout in the 14-year his-

See ALABAMA on Page 26

AP

Alabama head coach Nick Saban celebrates with his team after the BCS National Championship college football game against LSU Monday, Jan. 9, 2012, in New Orleans. Alabama won 21-0.

Bama's Shelley redeems kickers in LSU rematch

AP

Alabama's Jeremy Shelley celebrates after the BCS National Championship college football game against LSU Monday, Jan. 9, 2012, in New Orleans.

By JOHN ZENOR
AP SPORTS WRITER

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Jeremy Shelley redeemed Alabama's kickers.

Shelley overcame a few errant kicks to equal a bowl record with five field goals in the Crimson Tide's 21-0 win over LSU in Monday night's BCS championship game, writing a feel-good ending for the little guys with the maligned legs.

It meant Alabama (12-1) survived this time though its offense, again, kept getting turned back. Cade Foster missed three field goals in the first game against LSU on Nov. 5 and Shelley had one blocked in the 9-6 overtime defeat.

"I feel like it's great for both of us to have that redemption and be able to show the Bama nation what we can do," Shelley said.

He wound up making field goals from 23, 34, 41, 35 and 44 yards.

That matched the bowl record held by Texas A&M's Kyle Bryant (1995 Alabama Bowl) and Minnesota's Dan Nystrom

See SHELLEY on Page 26

'Bama defense shuts down Tigers in BCS title game

By DAVE SKRETTA
AP SPORTS WRITER

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Alabama delivered what everyone expected from the first play of the BCS title game, when a host of red jerseys stuffed LSU running back Michael Ford at the line of scrimmage: a rock `em, sock `em affair dominated by defense.

The Crimson Tide's was simply better.

Led by bruising linebacker Courtney Upshaw and the opportunistic C.J. Mosley, the second-ranked Crimson Tide shut down the Southeastern Conference's top scoring offense in a

See BAMA on Page 26

AP

LSU quarterback Jordan Jefferson (9) is tackled by Alabama's Mark Barron during the second half of the BCS National Championship college football game Monday, Jan. 9, 2012, in New Orleans.